

Hartford

Courant

Hartford office complex for sale

Atlantic Works, which benefits nonprofits, on the market after pandemic hurt sector

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — An office complex near downtown Hartford designed to foster the growth of nonprofits with shared space and below-market rents is being put up for sale, after the pandemic battered the nonprofit sector.

Kent Schwendy, president and chief executive officer of the Corpo-

ration for Independent Living, a nonprofit real estate developer and the owner of the complex at the corner of Charter Oak Avenue and Columbus Boulevard, said the decision to sell was “very, very difficult.”

“I think eight years of trying to pursue a vision — it seemed like every time we took a step forward, something would knock us back,” Schwendy said. “The final death blow was all the uncertainty around COVID-19 and what office spaces will look like and what nonprofits will survive.”

The two-building, 83,000-square-foot complex is known as the Atlantic Works, its name taken from the historic Atlantic Screw Works building on the property. Some of the tenants that share space to reduce their costs are members of the Connecticut Nonprofit Center, organized by the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance, also a tenant.

Turn to Complex, Page 2



The Atlantic Screw Works building, front left, is part of an office complex at Charter Oak Avenue and Columbus Boulevard in Hartford that is coming up for sale.

CIL/HEATHER CONLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

“I don’t understand how I could work two jobs and still can’t afford an apartment. I either make too much money for help or not enough.”

— Dilliner Jordan, a home health care worker in Connecticut



Dilliner Jordan wipes Tracy Lamb’s face while caring for her in Lamb’s West Haven apartment March 22. Jordan is a home health care worker who cares for Lamb four days a week. **CLOE POISSON FOR CONN. HEALTH I-TEAM**

Home care workers detail financial woes

Those dealing with most vulnerable cope with low pay, benefits

By Lisa Backus | Conn. Health I-Team

Dilliner Jordan works 62 hours a week taking care of two people who are too medically fragile to take care of themselves.

But she has no health insurance and often sleeps in her car since she can’t afford rent and a security deposit, even though she has been saving for months. She is fearful of staying at a shelter, which she believes will increase her chances of contracting COVID-19 for a second time.

“It does bother me,” the 63-year-old Brooklyn, New York, native said. “It bothers me a lot. I don’t understand how I could work two jobs and still can’t afford an apartment. I either make too much money for

help or not enough.”

At 61, Lucía Nunez, who also works as a personal care assistant, commonly known as a home care worker, is in the same position. Nunez of East Hartford works 70

hours a week, taking care of three individuals who need help with the daily activities of life, including bathing and meals. Still, she hasn’t had a mammogram in four years.

“I can’t remember the last time I went to the doctor for a regular visit,” said Nunez, who also has no health insurance.

Jordan and Nunez are part of a 10,000-member workforce taking care of 6,000 of the state’s most vulnerable residents in their homes, paid by the state Department of Social Services and state Department of Developmental Services through Medicaid funding.

They are mostly women—predominantly women of color—with no health care benefits, no paid time off, no paid sick days and

Turn to Care, Page 3

WAR IN UKRAINE

Dozens killed at train station

Missile hits eastern depot crammed with people trying to flee

By Adam Schreck and Cara Anna
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A missile hit a train station in eastern Ukraine where thousands had gathered Friday, killing at least 52 and wounding dozens more in an attack on a crowd of mostly women and children trying to flee a new, looming Russian offensive, Ukrainian authorities said.

The attack that some denounced as yet another war crime in the six-week-old conflict came as workers unearthed bodies from a mass grave in Bucha, a town near Ukraine’s capital where dozens of killings have been documented after a Russian pullout.

Photos from the station in Kramatorsk showed the dead covered with tarps, and the remnants of a rocket with the words “For the children” painted on it in Russian. About 4,000 civilians had been in and around the station, heeding calls to leave before fighting intensifies in the Donbas region, the office of Ukraine’s prosecutor-general said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other leaders accused Russia’s military of deliberately attacking the station in Ukrainian government-controlled territory. Russia, in turn, blamed Ukraine, saying it doesn’t use the kind of missile that hit the station — a contention experts dismissed.

“Without the strength or courage to stand up to us on the battlefield, (Russian troops) are

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2

Killingly school board chair resigns

Janice Joly, chair of the Killingly Board of Education, resigned on Friday. Joly and the voting majority of the Killingly school board have been criticized in recent weeks for voting to reject a proposal to create a school-based mental health center, despite the pleas of students and staff. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Opinion.....**News, 8**
Obituaries.....**News, 10**
Lottery.....**News, 2**
Classified.....**News, 9**
Puzzles.....**Connecticut, 6**
Comics.....**Connecticut, 5-6**

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Hartford’s ‘Hot Mamas’ raided for drugs

Police: Operation yields 145 pounds of pot along with guns, fentanyl

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Hartford police on Thursday raided what they said was a mini shopping mall for illegal drugs masquerading as a restaurant, seizing 145 pounds of marijuana, 160 bags of fentanyl, \$30,000 in cash and four guns.

The officers, with help from state and federal law enforcement, swooped down on 451 Franklin Ave. at dinnertime to find a smorgasbord of street drugs worth some \$500,000, police said. The

only food in the corner “restaurant,” which police said is known as “Hot Mamas,” was marijuana edibles and mushrooms — the hallucinogenic type. The business is listed online as Mama’s Hot Delicious Food & Restaurant LLC.

Police arrested eight people on drug charges, none from Hartford. More arrests are expected.

The contraband was “kind of spread out as if it was a market or shopping mall,” Lt. Aaron Boisvert said at a news conference Friday. “It was posing as a restaurant. From what I understand, they were charging a cover fee to get in, and then they had a little shopping center set up.”

Turn to Raid, Page 3



Police say they seized 145 pounds of marijuana, 160 bags of fentanyl and four guns from a Hartford business Thursday during a drug raid. **COURTESY**

FROM PAGE ONE

Complex

from Page 1

The complex — the former Hartford Square West — has 25 tenants, all but a few nonprofits. Occupancy is at 86%, but one nonprofit went out of business March 31. Other nonprofits are on such shaky financial footings that they are on month-to-month leases, Schwendy said.

Many of the nonprofits in the center are involved in community outreach, whose services were in high demand during the pandemic, straining already tight budgets.

Schwendy said CIL could no longer offer below-market rents and pay all the bills.

“We were faced with the decision of either having to give up on the vision and then raise rents but still own the building even though it was no longer really going to be able to serve the community in the way we intended or just say, ‘Let’s step out and let’s let the new owner work out how to make this work,’” Schwendy said.

With a new owner, there might be a way for the Alliance to continue to operate the nonprofit center, Schwendy said.

“So, it’s getting out of the way because we can’t figure out a way to sustain it,” Schwendy said.

Hartford-based CIL, also the developer of the neighboring apartments in the former Capewell factory, bought the nonprofit center property for \$4.75 million in 2013.

An asking price for the property will be disclosed when the property is listed next week.

Schwendy said the city’s high property tax rate also added significantly to the cost of operating the complex. The city did not allow a nonprofit tax exemption for the building, he said.

“Because the nonprofit tenants are leasing the space from us, the city’s position was that the project didn’t qualify even though it was owned by a nonprofit, used by nonprofits,” Schwendy said.

The city saw the center as a commercial venture because it was leasing to tenants and they were paying rent, Schwendy said.

Schwendy said CIL took the city to court but later settled as attorney fees mounted up.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin could not immediately be reached for comment.

Jay Williams, president of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, said the foundation has long supported the vision of the nonprofit center.

“None of us could have predicted the continued impact that COVID-19 would have on our local economic conditions and our nonprofit community,” Williams said. “We will continue to partner with all of the stakeholders at the center to mitigate these negative effects on nonprofits and the essential services they provide to their clients.”

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The Atlantic Works property, which is going up for sale, was designed as a campus with outdoor green spaces. **ROBERT BENSON**



Relatives of victims mourn Friday at a mass grave of civilians that was discovered in Bucha, Ukraine, near Kyiv. **EFREM LUKATSKY/AP**

Ukraine

from Page 1

cynically destroying the civilian population,” Zelenskyy said on social media. “This is an evil without limits. And if it is not punished, then it will never stop.”

Pavlo Kyrylenko, the regional governor of Donetsk, in the Donbas, said 52 people were killed, including five children, and many dozens more were wounded.

“There are many people in a serious condition, without arms or legs,” Kramatorsk Mayor Oleksandr Goncharenko said. Even with 30 to 40 surgeons working to treat them, the local hospital was struggling to cope, he said.

British Defense Minister Ben Wallace denounced the attack as a war crime, and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called it “completely unacceptable.”

“There are almost no words for it,” European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who is on a visit to Ukraine, told reporters. “The cynical behavior (by Russia) has almost no benchmark anymore.”

Ukrainian authorities and Western officials have repeatedly accused Russian forces of atrocities in the war that began with

Russia’s invasion Feb. 24. More than 4 million Ukrainians have fled the country, and millions more have been displaced. Some of the most startling evidence of atrocities has been found in towns around Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, from which Russian President Vladimir Putin’s troops pulled back in recent days.

In Bucha, Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk has said investigators found at least three sites of mass shootings of civilians and were still finding bodies in yards, parks and city squares, 90% of whom were shot.

Russia has falsely claimed that the scenes in Bucha were staged.

On Friday, workers pulled corpses from a mass grave near a town church under spitting rain, lining up black body bags in rows in the mud.

About 67 people were buried in the grave, according to a statement from Prosecutor-General Iryna Venediktova’s office, which is investigating those deaths and other mass casualties involving civilians as possible war crimes.

In his nightly video address Thursday, Zelenskyy warned that more horrors could yet be revealed. Already, he said, atrocities worse than the ones in Bucha had surfaced in Borodyanka, another settlement outside the

capital. Twenty-six bodies were found there Thursday.

“And what will happen when the world learns the whole truth about what the Russian troops did in Mariupol?” Zelenskyy said, referring to the besieged southern port that has seen some of the greatest suffering during Russia’s invasion.

The killings around Kyiv were revealed when Russian forces pulled back after failing to take the capital in the face of stiff Ukrainian resistance. Russian troops have now set their sights on the Donbas, the mostly Russian-speaking, industrial region in eastern Ukraine where Moscow-backed rebels have been fighting Ukrainian forces for eight years and control some areas.

NATO nations agreed Thursday to increase their supply of weapons, and Slovakian Prime Minister Eduard Heger announced on a trip to Ukraine on Friday that his country has donated its Soviet-era S-300 air defense system to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy had appealed for S-300s to help the country “close the skies” to Russian warplanes and missiles.

American and Slovak officials said the U.S. will then deploy a Patriot missile system to Slovakia.

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BREAKING NEWS

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LOTTERY
Friday, April 8

PLAY3 DAY	PLAY4 DAY
8 2 2 WB: 3	7 5 2 8 WB: 8

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

THURSDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT
3 3 9 WB: 8

PLAY4 NIGHT
8 4 1 2 WB: 8

CASH 5
4 7 9 14 29

LUCKY FOR LIFE
8 24 27 30 33 LB: 14

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FROM PAGE ONE

NEWS BRIEFING

Whitmer kidnap plot: 2 acquitted, hung jury for 2 alleged leaders

From news services

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A jury on Friday acquitted two men of all charges in a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer but couldn't reach verdicts against the two alleged leaders.

The results were announced a few hours after the jury said it was struggling to find unanimity on all 10 charges. The judge on the fifth day of deliberations told the panel to keep working, but jurors emerged again after lunch to say they still were deadlocked on some counts.

Daniel Harris, 24, and Brandon Caserta, 33, were found not guilty of conspiracy. Harris was also acquitted of charges related to explosives and a gun.

The jury could not reach verdicts for Adam Fox, 38, and Barry Croft Jr., 46, which means the government can put them on trial

again.

“Obviously we’re disappointed with the outcome. ... We have two defendants that are awaiting trial and we’ll get back to work on that,” U.S. Attorney Andrew Birge said.

Harris and Caserta embraced their lawyers when U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker said they were free after 18 months in jail awaiting trial.

Their arrests in Michigan in 2020 came amid upheaval in the U.S. during a year that started with pandemic lockdowns then shifted to armed Capitol protests over COVID-19 restrictions ordered by Whitmer and other governors. By late May, anger over racial injustice and the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police erupted into demonstrations in cities nationwide.

During 13 days of testimony, prosecutors offered evidence from undercover agents, a crucial informant

and two men who pleaded guilty to the plot. Jurors also read and heard secretly recorded conversations, violent social media posts and chat messages.

Ty Garbin, who pleaded guilty and is serving a six-year prison sentence, said the plan was to get Whitmer and cause enough chaos to trigger a civil war before the election.

Garbin and Kaleb Franks, who also pleaded guilty and testified for the government, were among the six who were arrested in October 2020 amid talk of raising \$4,000 for an explosive to blow up a bridge and stymie any police response to a kidnapping, according to trial testimony.

Proud Boys member pleads: A North Carolina man on Friday became the second member of the extremist group Proud Boys to plead guilty to conspiring with other group members to



A costumed student takes part in the annual “Huelga de Todos los Dolores” or Strike of All Sorrows parade Friday in Guatemala City. The parade, which dates back to 1898, began as a strike to demand that the government provide better education. It has become a march that satirizes political issues today, while mocking current politicians. **JOHAN ORDONEZ/GETTY-AFP**

stop Congress from formally certifying Joe Biden’s 2020 election victory.

Charles Donohoe, 34, pleaded guilty in federal court in Washington to charges of conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding and assaulting or impeding federal officers. His plea agreement includes a provi-

sion to cooperate in the ongoing Justice Department cases against other Proud Boys members.

Federal sentencing guidelines call for a prison term of about six to seven years.

The indictment against Donohoe and other members of extremist groups, such as the Proud

Boys and Oath Keepers, have been a focus of the DOJ’s Justice Department’s sprawling investigation of the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection.

More than three dozen people charged in the Capitol siege have been identified by federal authorities as Proud Boys leaders, members or associates.

Care

from Page 1

no path to retirement even as the pandemic has worn on into a third year, said Diedre Murch, director of home care for the New England Healthcare Employees Union, SEIU District 1199.

“We are unearthing more and more stories like Dilliner’s and Lucia’s,” Murch said. “The pandemic was like pouring gasoline on the fire that was already burning.”

The workers can’t legally strike to get better pay and benefits because the state has no backup system to take care of their clients, Murch said. The union, DSS and DDS have been in talks for months, even as federal pandemic relief for community care was made available.

After a meeting with Gov. Ned Lamont last week, the union is hopeful that a new contract is coming, Murch said, but an agreement has not been reached.

Nunez works Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3 to 9 p.m. for two people and then every other weekend taking care of a third person.

“I’m always working more than 70 hours a week so I can survive, pay my bills and put food on the table,” she said.

Nunez gets no benefits other than what she calls “holy day pay,” she said.

“If you work on the Fourth of July—that’s a holy day—you get paid time-and-a-half,” she said. “If you don’t work, you don’t get paid because we have no paid holidays unless we work.”

Nunez only took a few days off when one of her clients contracted COVID-19 because she couldn’t afford to stop working. Her boyfriend puts gas in her car so she can use that money for food, she said.

“Everything is more expensive,” she said.

Jordan works Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Tracy Lamb, a 52-year-old West Haven resident with multiple sclerosis who is bedridden and needs help with



Dilliner Jordan prepares to bed down in her car in the parking lot of a friend’s apartment building in West Haven on Monday. Jordan, a home health care worker who works four days a week with West Haven client Tracy Lamb, doesn’t make enough money to afford an apartment. She sometimes sleeps at Lamb’s apartment in a reclining chair but can’t do that every night. **CLOE POISSON PHOTOS/FOR CONN. HEALTH I-TEAM**

bathing, dressing and chores around the house.

“She makes me happy every time,” Lamb said. “When she goes away, I’m miserable.

“We have a very good relationship. She bathes me, she leaves the room spotless, she cooks for me, she’ll clean up the house. She never stops. She’s like the Energizer battery.”

Sometimes the two watch television or movies together while Jordan folds the laundry. Lamb said Jordan will go to the store for her on a day off if Lamb needs something.

“She always goes above and beyond for me,” Lamb said.

Jordan also works 10 hours on Fridays and 12 on Saturdays taking care of a second client on oxygen.

Jordan will sometimes stay overnight at Lamb’s home if it’s cold out. On the other nights, she’ll sleep in her car, she said. She cooks for herself when she cooks for her clients, leaving foods that need to remain cold in their refrigerator. “I never



Dilliner Jordan covers client Tracy Lamb with a comforter after helping her get back into bed Monday following Jordan’s trip to Stop & Shop for groceries.

hide my situation from them,” Jordan said.

Jordan said she was raised by a mother who believed that people should help their older neighbors or people in need.

“I think that’s why I went into this,” Jordan said. “My

mom would send us to go help people.

“Even though I work six days a week, I spend Sunday going to see a lady who has nobody. I talk to her. We were the help for the elderly when I was a kid.”

She worked for a nurs-

ing home in 1987 but found that the job didn’t provide enough time to take care of people the way she felt was necessary, she said.

“You need to make sure they are clean,” Jordan said. “You want to make them happy. There were so many

residents you couldn’t give them the attention they needed. When I’m doing private duty, I’m able to do that for every one of my clients.”

After working in home care for nearly 30 years, Jordan moved to South Carolina before the start of the pandemic to spend time with her son and his family, she said. She was able to work less because she lived with his family and was enjoying life until tragedy struck.

Her son went to the store one day and never returned, she said. He had been shot and killed by the store manager, who mistakenly believed her son was trying to rob the place, she said.

“It was a shock,” Jordan said. “It was very traumatic. He left nine kids. You come to the point where you can’t feel. I was in trauma.”

Jordan sought the help of a therapist through telehealth, then came back to Connecticut to escape the memories.

“I couldn’t stay,” she said. “I kept seeing him everywhere.”

Since then Jordan has been working with Lamb and her other client while trying to avoid catching COVID-19 for a second time. Her first bout in November 2021 left her with lung problems and fatigue, she said. She lost two weeks’ pay while quarantining because, by that point, federal sick time pay for home care workers impacted by COVID-19 had ended.

Jordan makes it a point to tell her clients they still make life worth living even if they are bedridden or have physical challenges. Some days she tries to motivate them despite being exhausted.

“Everybody has a calling,” Jordan said. “It takes a special person to take tender loving care of people. I try to give them a better quality of life. Everyone should have a better quality of life.”

This story was reported under a partnership with the Connecticut Health I-Team, a nonprofit news organization dedicated to health reporting.

Raid

from Page 1

In addition to the large haul of marijuana and fentanyl, he said officers seized 14 grams, or .49 ounces, of cocaine; hundreds of THC edibles, including candy bars; two pounds of hallucinogenic mushrooms and 100 bottles of liquid THC — the part of marijuana that makes one feel high.

They also confiscated 50 bottles of “lean” — also known as “purple drank” or “sizzurp” — prescription cough medicine that often is mixed with soda and candy.

The marijuana seizure was the largest this year in the capital city, Lt. Anthony Pia said.

The business at the address used to be called the Majestic Lounge, which was shut down after four people



This is the scene inside a Hartford business known as “Hot Mamma’s” after a major drug raid Thursday, police say. **COURTESY**

were shot, one fatally, in 2020.

In 2010, a bystander was shot and killed outside a bar

at the same address, then called The Franklin Bar & Grill.

Two men were wounded

inside.

“Historically, we’ve had some problems with that building,” Boisvert said.

Three of the eight people arrested are from Massachusetts, and one is from Pennsylvania. The four from Connecticut are from Andover, Manchester, Bethel and Bridgeport, police said.

Parris Darden, 23, of Springfield, Mass., was charged with sale of one kilogram, or 2.2 pounds, or more of cannabis, police said.

Charged with possession of one kilogram of cannabis or more with intent to sell was: Brian Kreidler, 51, of Jurovaty Road, Andover; Jonathan Mark Handy, 49, of Dorchester, Mass.; Sherold Lee, 28, of Bridgeport, and Savannah Royce, 19, of Bondsville, Mass.

Also arrested on the charge was Jimmy Ball, 42, of Congress Street in Manchester; Julio Miguel Fajardo, 28, of Payne Road in Bethel, and Alfred Hammonds, 60, of Chester,

Pa.

Royce and Fajardo also were charged with possession of a hallucinogen with intent to sell, police said.

Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies had been working on the investigation for several months, Boisvert said.

Members of four divisions of the Hartford Police Department worked with the Connecticut State Police, the state Department of Revenue Services and the FBI on the drug seizure.

“They’ve been eyeing this place for quite awhile,” he said.

Boisvert said the investigation is still underway. Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the police department’s tip line at 860-722-8477 (TIPS).

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Jackson: ‘We’ve made it, all of us’

Confirmation to high court hailed at White House event

By Zeke Miller and Will Weissert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tearfully embracing a history-making moment, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson said Friday her confirmation as the first Black woman to the Supreme Court showed the progress of America, declaring, “We’ve made it, all of us.”

Jackson delivered emotional remarks on the sunny White House South Lawn a day after the Senate approved her nomination, saying, it was a development the entire country could be proud of.

“We have come a long way toward perfecting our union,” she said. “In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court of the United States.”

President Joe Biden, who made his own history by nominating her, stood by her side for Friday’s event, celebrating her confirmation as “a moment of real change in American history.” On Jackson’s other side: Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman to attain her high office.

Jackson will take the bench later this year, filling the seat of retiring Justice Stephen Breyer on a court that was made up entirely of white men for almost two centuries, that declared her race unworthy of citizenship and endorsed American segregation.

“It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected



President Biden said Ketanji Brown Jackson’s confirmation represents “a day of progress.” CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY

to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States,” Jackson said. “But we’ve made it. We’ve made it, all of us.”

Jackson, at times speaking through tears as she thanked her family and mentors for their support, promised to follow in Breyer’s footsteps on the bench.

“I have done my level best to stay in my lane and to reach a result that is consistent with my understanding of the law,” she said, “And with the obligation to rule independently, without fear or favor.”

Jackson’s remarks on the White House lawn might be the most, and the last,

the public hears from her for some time. She won’t formally join the court until early summer, and the justices won’t hear cases again until October. In any event, justices tend not to say much about themselves in their early years on the court, though some make sporadic public appearances and several have done speaking tours to pitch memoirs or their books about the law.

Jackson’s arrival on the bench won’t upend the current 6-3 conservative balance. But in addition to the racial history, it will for the first time put four women on the court at one

time.

Biden nominated Jackson on the second anniversary of his pledge ahead of the South Carolina presidential primary to select a Black woman for the court. The move helped resurrect his flailing campaign and preserved his pathway to the White House, and Biden said the promise of putting someone like Jackson on the court helped motivate his bid for the Oval Office.

“I could see it as a day of hope, a day of promise, a day of progress, a day when once again the moral arc of the universe — as Barack (Obama) used to quote all the time — bends a little

more toward justice,” Biden told the boisterous crowd on the South Lawn. “I believe so strongly that we needed a court that looks like America.”

Racial questions aside, a number of Republican senators aggressively questioned Jackson during confirmation hearings, accusing her of liberal activism as an appeals court judge and being soft on crime in some of her sentencing.

Biden praised Jackson’s “incredible character and integrity” during the confirmation process, saying she put up with “verbal abuse, the anger, constant interruptions, the most vile baseless

assertions and accusations.” He praised the three Republican senators who joined Democrats to back her for the court: Maine Sen. Susan Collins, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Utah Sen. Mitt Romney.

Jackson will be the high court’s first former public defender — with the elite legal background of other justices as well. She has degrees from Harvard and Harvard Law School and held top clerkships, including for Breyer himself.

The crowd on the White House lawn included Jackson’s family, members of Biden’s Cabinet, some of the Democratic senators who backed her nomination, as well as Democratic representatives and allies. The White House said all current and former justices of the Supreme Court were invited, but none attended.

The event came amid a COVID-19 outbreak among Washington’s political class that has sidelined members of Biden’s administration and lawmakers, including Collins and Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock, who tested positive for the virus just hours after voting for Brown’s confirmation. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was on the invite list, tested positive for the virus on Thursday.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki on Thursday addressed concerns that the White House event could be a “super-spreader” for the virus, like President Donald Trump’s Rose Garden ceremony announcing the nomination of now-Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Psaki emphasized that the risks from the virus are now much lower because of vaccinations and treatments.

SpaceX sends magnates on flight to orbiting lab

Trio pay \$55M each for International Space Station trip

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX launched three rich businessmen and their astronaut escort to the International Space Station on Friday for more than a week’s stay, as NASA joins Russia in hosting guests at the world’s most expensive tourist destination.

It’s SpaceX’s first private charter flight to the orbiting lab after two years of carrying astronauts there for NASA.

Arriving at the space station Saturday are an American, a Canadian and an Israeli who run investment, real estate and other companies. They’re paying \$55 million apiece for the rocket ride and accommodations, all meals included.

Russia has been hosting tourists at the space station — and before that the Mir station — for decades. Last fall, a Russian movie crew flew up, followed by a Japanese fashion tycoon and his assistant.

NASA is finally getting into the act, after years of opposing space station visitors.

“It was a hell of a ride and we’re looking forward to the next 10 days,” said former NASA astronaut and chaperone Michael Lopez-Alegria on reaching orbit.

The visitors’ tickets include access to all but the Russian portion of the space station — they’ll need permission from the three cosmonauts on board. Three Americans and a German also live up there.

Lopez-Alegria plans to avoid talking about politics and the war in Ukraine while he’s at the space station.

“I honestly think that it won’t be awkward. I mean maybe a tiny bit,” he said. He expects the “spirit of collaboration will shine through.”

The private Axiom Space company arranged the visit with NASA for its three paying customers: Larry Connor of Dayton, Ohio, who runs the Connor Group; Mark Pathy, founder and CEO of Montreal’s Mavrik Corp.; and Israel’s Eytan Stibbe, a former fighter pilot and founding partner of Vital Capital.

Before the flight, their enthusiasm was obvious. Stibbe did a little dance when he arrived at the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center.

SpaceX and NASA have

been upfront with them about the risks of space-flight, said Lopez-Alegria, who spent seven months at the space station 15 years ago.

“There’s no fuzz, I think, on what the dangers are or what the bad days could look like,” Lopez-Alegria said before the flight.

Each visitor has a full slate of experiments to conduct during their stay, one reason they don’t like to be called space tourists.

“They’re not up there to paste their nose on the window,” said Axiom’s co-founder and president, Michael Suffredini, a former NASA space station program manager.

The three businessmen are the latest to take advantage of the opening of space to those with deep pockets. Jeff Bezos’ rocket company Blue Origin is taking customers on 10-minute rides to the edge of space, while Virgin Galactic expects to start flying customers on its rocket ship later this year.

Friday’s flight is the second private charter for Elon Musk’s SpaceX, which took a billionaire and his guests on a three-day orbit ride last year. SpaceX’s fifth flight of NASA astronauts to the station is coming up in



A SpaceX rocket carrying three businessmen and a chaperone to the International Space Station launches Friday from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. JOEL KOWSKY/NASA

just a few weeks.

Axiom is targeting 2023 for its second private flight to the space station. More customer trips will follow, with Axiom adding its own rooms to the orbiting complex in 2024. After about five years, the company plans to detach its compartments to form a self-sustaining station — one of several outposts intended to replace the space station once it’s retired and NASA shifts to the moon.

At an adjacent pad during Friday’s launch: NASA’s new moon rocket, which is await-

ing completion of a dress rehearsal for a summertime test flight.

As a gift for their seven station hosts, the four visitors are taking up paella and other Spanish cuisine prepared by celebrity chef Jose Andres.

The automated SpaceX capsule and its four passengers are due back April 19 with a splashdown off the Florida coast.

To honor Ohio’s air and space legacy, Connor is bringing a fabric swatch from the Wright brothers’ 1903 Kitty Hawk flyer and

gold foil from the Apollo 11 command module from the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum in Wapakoneta.

Only the second Israeli in space, Stibbe will continue a thunderstorm experiment begun by Ilan Ramon, who died aboard shuttle Columbia in 2003. They were in the same fighter pilot squadron.

Stibbe is carrying copies of recovered pages of Ramon’s space diary, as well as a song composed by Ramon’s musician son and a painting of pages falling from the sky by his daughter.



The motion picture academy has banned Will Smith, right, from attending the Oscars following his slap of Chris Rock. AP

Will Smith gets 10-year Oscars ban over slap

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The motion picture academy on Friday banned Will Smith from attending the Oscars or any other academy event for 10 years following his slap of Chris Rock at the Academy Awards.

The move comes after a meeting of the academy’s Board of Governors to discuss a response to Smith’s actions.

“The 94th Oscars were

meant to be a celebration of the many individuals in our community who did incredible work this past year; however, those moments were overshadowed by the unacceptable and harmful behavior we saw Mr. Smith exhibit on stage,” the academy said in a statement.

Smith resigned from the academy last week during the run-up to the meeting and said he would accept any punishment the academy handed down.

“I accept and respect the

Academy’s decision,” Smith said in a statement.

The academy also apologized for allowing Smith to stay and accept his best actor award for “King Richard.”

“During our telecast, we did not adequately address the situation in the room. For this, we are sorry,” the academy said. “This was an opportunity for us to set an example for our guests, viewers and our Academy family around the world, and we fell short — unprepared for the unprece-

dented. “

The ban means Smith will not be presenting one of the major awards at next year’s Oscars, as is tradition for the best actor winner.

The academy in its statement also expressed “deep gratitude to Mr. Rock for maintaining his composure under extraordinary circumstances.”

The academy’s statement did not address whether Smith could be nominated for Oscars during his 10-year ban.

WORLD & NATION

Dolphins share more than bonds

Disease can also spread through such close contact

By Christina Larson
Associated Press

REEDVILLE, Va. — Three young male dolphins simultaneously break the water’s surface to breathe — first exhaling, then inhaling — before slipping back under the waves of the Chesapeake Bay.

“A perfect sync,” said Janet Mann, a dolphin researcher watching from a small skiff.

Synchronized breathing is something dolphins often do with close pals, like these males, or that mothers and calves do together, said Mann. It’s a way of affirming the relationships that are so important to these highly intelligent and social mammals, like a handshake or a hug among humans.

“It says, ‘We’re together,’” said Mann, who is based at Georgetown University.

While such close contact is essential to dolphin social bonds, sharing space and air can also quickly spread disease.

Mann and other scientists are trying to understand how a highly contagious and lethal disease called cetacean morbillivirus — related to measles in humans and first detected in Virginia and Maryland waters — can spread rapidly among dolphins along the Atlantic Coast, as it did from 2013 to 2015.

During that outbreak, more than 1,600 dolphins washed ashore on beaches from New York to Florida, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Altogether, an estimated 20,000 dolphins died from the virus, and the region’s population of coastal dolphins shrank by about 50%.

“It’s much like COVID — it’s respiratory” in how it spreads, said Mann. “When dolphins breathe together at



Dolphins swim together in the Potomac River in Virginia. ANN-MARIE JACOBY/POTOMAC-CHESAPEAKE DOLPHIN PROJECT 2019

the surface, they’re sharing respiratory droplets just like we do when we’re talking or coughing on each other.”

She realized that the key to understanding swift virus transmission was tracing dolphin social networks, much as public health authorities have tracked the COVID-19 pandemic.

To understand how diseases circulate in social animals — such as humans, dolphins or chimpanzees — scientists must scrutinize not only the biology of a virus, but also how vulnerable populations interact, said Jacob Negrey, a researcher who studies animal viruses at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

“Contact networks represent a double-edged sword,” he said. “Your friends that you need are also the individuals most likely to get you sick.”

Dolphins are extremely playful animals and often swim close together, sometimes even touching fins.

“We call it holding hands,” said Mann, who also directs the nonprofit Potomac-Chesapeake Dolphin Project.

Although many people casually refer to a “pod” of dolphins, Mann dislikes the term, because it implies a stable group, like a pack of wolves.

What she’s observed over 35 years of studying dolphins in the U.S. and Australia is that while dolphins have close buddies, they come and go regularly to check on others.

In the Chesapeake Bay area, tracking how dolphins mingle has required the scientists to distinguish more than 2,000 dolphins, mostly by distinctive shapes and markings of their dorsal fins.

“To me it’s like a face,” said Mann. “I joke with my students that if they wore dorsal fin hats, I would remember all their names.”

On mornings with light wind, the scientists set out

in an 18-foot skiff to look for dolphins near where the Potomac River empties into the bay.

A trained eye can notice slight splashing on the water a mile away, or catch the glint of sunlight on a fin or tail.

“I’m looking for dark objects breaking the surface of the water,” said Georgetown biologist Melissa Collier, scanning the horizon through binoculars.

Suddenly, she shouted for the boat to slow down and pointed with one hand. “Dolphins by the pier, close to shore.”

Ann-Marie Jacoby, a Duke University marine and conservation scientist, peered through binoculars, then smiled in recognition. “We have Abe Lincoln and his buddy Andrew Jackson,” she cried.

Because the Potomac runs through Washington, the researchers have named many dolphins for American historical figures.

“It’s so nice to find dolphins that we know,” said Jacoby. “These males have been seen together regularly together over the past year.”

To identify less familiar dolphins, they photograph their dorsal fins, then compare them to a catalog of fins created since 2015 — essentially a Facebook for dolphins.

“Andrew and Abe just synced,” said Collier, scribbling notes as another dolphin approached.

James Buchanan was now less than 16 feet from the other dolphins, which Collier said was close enough for disease spread.

All three dolphins surfaced and breathed together, then disappeared under the waves.

“This is typical male behavior,” said Mann. “The males stay pretty coordinated with each other. The females sync, but not as regularly. They sync mostly with their offspring.”

That difference in behav-

ior may help explain why males died in greater numbers during the most recent cetacean morbillivirus outbreak — a hypothesis the researchers are examining.

While Atlantic bottlenose dolphins are not endangered, NOAA considers their coastal populations to be “depleted,” meaning “below optimum sustainable population.”

Outbreaks of the virus emerge here every 25 years or so. And they strike dolphins and their close marine relatives elsewhere, including some endangered whale species.

University of Hawaii researcher Kristi West called the disease — which causes skin lesions, pneumonia, brain infections and a suppressed immune system — “the most significant threat to dolphins and whales on a worldwide scale.”

While viruses naturally occur in the wild, human disruption of marine habitats has made animals more vulnerable. “The disease becomes an even more significant threat when we combine it with other stressors that dolphins and whales throughout the world are facing,” West said.

From the boat on the Chesapeake, the water looks clear and calm.

“We don’t see what’s under the surface,” said Mann, casting a doleful glance down. “But carbon and plastics and prey depletion — these are all things that threaten the animals,” along with warming oceans from climate change.

Such stresses weaken dolphins’ immune systems. “So they are extremely vulnerable to virus outbreaks,” she said.

Collier hopes their research can be used to help forecast when epidemics might occur, then use that information “to try to enact policies in areas where human disturbance is really high.”



Staffers handle forensic evidence Friday at the International Commission on Missing Persons lab in The Hague, Netherlands. An ICMP team is expected soon in Ukraine. PETER DEJONG/AP

WAR IN UKRAINE

Experts to travel to Ukraine to identify war’s dead bodies

By Mike Corder
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — An international organization formed to identify the dead and missing from the 1990s Balkan conflicts is preparing to send a team of forensics experts to Ukraine as the death toll mounts more than six weeks into the war caused by Russia’s invasion.

Authorities in Kyiv have reached out to the International Commission on Missing Persons to help put names to bodies that might otherwise remain anonymous amid the chaos of war.

A team made up of a forensic pathologist, forensic archaeologist and an expert on collecting DNA samples from bodies and from families to cross-match, is expected to travel to Ukraine early next week, Director-General Kathryn Bomberger told The Associated Press on Friday.

They will help identify the dead, but also document how they died — information that can feed into war crimes investigations in the future. The organization’s laboratory in an

office block on a busy street in The Hague will build a central database cataloging evidence and the identities of the missing.

“Having this centralized capability is absolutely critical because you have to look at this as an investigation into a gigantic crime scene that is taking place across Ukraine,” Bomberger said. The team will have plenty of work to do when it deploys to Bucha, where images of bodies lying in the streets after Russian forces withdrew shocked the world.

Bucha Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk said Thursday on Ukrainian television that at least three sites of mass shootings of civilians during the Russian occupation have been found. Fedoruk said hundreds have been killed, and investigators are finding bodies in yards, parks and city squares.

Vladyslav Atroshenko, the mayor of Chernihiv, said about 700 military personnel and civilians have been killed in the northern city in the war, and that 70 of the bodies remain unidentified, Ukrainian state news agency Ukrinform reported.

The commission, known by its acronym ICMP, already has a working relationship with the prosecution office of the International Criminal Court and other crime-fighting agencies like Interpol and Europol to share evidence. ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan already has opened an investigation in Ukraine.

“We want to make sure that we work together with the Ukrainian authorities to properly excavate these crime scene sites to identify the mortal remains so that evidence can be provided in the future for criminal trial purposes, not only potentially to the ICC, but also potentially within domestic courts in Ukraine,” Bomberger said.

The organization is at the forefront of using new technology in their painstaking work to identify bodies from even the smallest samples.

“We have implemented a new extraction technique, which allows us to extract more DNA from smaller or more damaged fragments of bone sample,” said DNA Laboratory manager Kieren Hill.

WAR IN UKRAINE

NATO’s ‘eyes in the sky’ help keep Europe out of the war

By Lorne Cook
Associated Press

UEDEM, Germany — As Russia’s military buildup near Ukraine accelerated early this year, military planners at NATO began preparing to dispatch scores of fighter jets and surveillance aircraft into the skies near Russia and Ukraine. It was a warning to Moscow not to make the mistake of targeting any member country.

In the weeks preceding the war, politicians and analysts were divided over whether President Vladimir Putin would order Russian troops to invade. From a military point of view, the forces arrayed around Ukraine appeared designed to do just that.

It became a matter of urgency to put more eyes in the sky and to tightly link NATO aircraft, warships, ground-based missile systems and radar installations to protect the alliance’s eastern flank.

“We are monitoring very closely,” NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said this week. “Information, best possible situation awareness, is of course extremely critical in such a dangerous situation as we see in Ukraine now.”

Before the Feb. 24 invasion, the alliance’s Combined Air Operations Center in Uedem, western Germany, shifted gear. A few dozen military personnel simultaneously manage up to 30 aircraft in skies from Norway to Slovakia.

From an underground bunker amid farmland, patrolling aircraft are diverted to monitor suspicious Russian planes. Jets on 15-minute standby are routinely “Alpha Scrambled” from around Europe to intercept unidentified aircraft near NATO airspace.

More than 100 aircraft



Pilots work in the cockpit of a Boeing E-3A surveillance plane, considered NATO’s “eyes in the sky,” at the Melsbroek Air Base in Melsbroek, Belgium. VIRGINIA MAYO/AP 2019

can be mixed in among roughly 30,000 civilian flights made daily through European skies.

Six Boeing E-3A surveillance planes from NATO’s aging fleet of early warning and control aircraft help create an “air picture” to share with member nations. These “eyes in the sky” do not fly into Ukraine or Russia, but can see up to 250 miles across borders.

Fighter jets also provide information about what is going on inside part of two countries at war. These “assets” are sometimes sent from as far away as western France, refueled midair, and can patrol for about an hour in the border area before they must return.

The 30-nation military alliance is wary of being drawn into a wider war with Russia, so borders and airspace are scrupulously respected.

“There is always the fog of war, and we don’t want to have NATO assets close by because even unintentionally you might have some losses,” said Maj. Gen. Harold Van Pee, commander of the NATO facility in Uedem.

The most sensitive zones for unidentified planes are the Kola Peninsula — at the high north borders of Russia

and Norway — the Gulf of Finland approaching the Russian city of St. Petersburg, and the skies around Russia’s exclave of Kaliningrad, sandwiched between Lithuania and Poland.

From their computer screens, NATO personnel can also track cruise missiles, like those that Russia used last month to pound a military training base in western Ukraine near NATO member Poland, killing 35 people.

But shadowing them with aircraft is a high-risk endeavor, particularly at night, in poor weather or when the missiles hug the ground, flying so low that electrical pylons and cables become a danger. “We have to be convinced that there is a credible threat” to go after one, Van Pee said.

A less obvious challenge to NATO airspace is rogue drones. Military officers said that Russia is using powerful electromagnetic devices for communication jamming purposes which can disrupt remotely controlled flights.

Last month, a military drone drifted uncontrolled out of Ukraine through the airspace of three members — Romania, Hungary and Croatia — before crashing in Zagreb, Croatia.

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Biden bets on strong job market to shield economy

Voters, some Wall Street analysts express fears of a slump coming in future

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy faces plenty of threats: War in Ukraine, high grocery bills, spiking gasoline prices, splintered supply chains, the lingering pandemic and rising interest rates that slow growth.

The Biden White House is betting the U.S. economy is strong enough to withstand these threats, but there are growing fears of a coming economic slump among voters and some Wall Street analysts.

The next few months will test whether President Joe Biden built a durable recovery full of jobs with last year's \$1.9 trillion relief package, or an economy overfed by government aid that could tip into a downturn. On the line for Democrats ahead of the midterm elections is whether voters see firsthand in their lives that inflation can be tamed and the economy can manage to run hot without overheating.

Brian Deese, director of the White House National Economic Council, told reporters this week that the 3.6% unemployment

rate and last year's robust growth puts the U.S. in a safe place compared to the rest of the world.

"The core question is whether the strength of the US economy is now an asset or a liability," Deese said. "What we have done over the course of the last 15 months is driven a uniquely strong economic recovery in the United States, which positions us uniquely well to deal with the challenges ahead."

But others see an economy that could struggle to preserve growth while reducing inflation now running at a 40-year high of 7.9%. The Federal Reserve has signaled a series of benchmark interest rate increases and other policies to slow inflation this year, yet Russia's invasion of Ukraine has destabilized the global energy and food markets in ways that could push prices upward.

While household balance sheets are solid and unemployment low, wages are not keeping up with inflation, which could dampen consumer spending. And supply chain disruptions and higher energy costs will be additional drags.

Still, consumer spending has been healthy even if the public views the economy as anemic.

Nearly 7 in 10 Americans believe the economy is in poor shape, according to a poll last month by Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Yet Bank of America noted that total debit and credit card spending in March was up 11% from a year ago, and its analysts concluded households are "strong enough to weather the storm provided it doesn't persist too long."

The challenge for the Biden administration, however, is that many Americans are so focused on inflation that they believe the job market — and wider economy — is weaker than it actually is. That means the White House has to make a nuanced case in which it recognizes the economic weaknesses but repeats the low unemployment rate so that it lodges in the public mind.

The doubts about the economy — despite the solid jobs numbers — are "a signal that we need to continue to make that case clearly and unambiguously," Deese said.

Musk: Tesla will build 'futuristic' robotaxi

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Tesla will build a vehicle dedicated for use as a robotaxi, and it will start making three new vehicles next year, CEO Elon Musk told fans at a party celebrating the opening of a Texas factory.

Musk didn't give details of the robotaxi other than to say it will "look quite futuristic." He also said Tesla will start building the Cybertruck pickup at its new factory near Austin, Texas, next year. After that, it will start building a new Roadster and an electric semi, he said.

He made his remarks Thursday night at the "Cyber Rodeo at Giga Texas," an invitation-only party for thousands of guests at Tesla's new billion-dollar-plus factory in Travis County that also serves as the company's headquarters following its move from California.

Musk said at the event streamed live on YouTube that Tesla was delivering the first Model Y small SUVs built at the new factory, which he said can make a half-million of the SUVs per year.

Tesla and Musk have often missed targets to start producing vehicles. In 2019, he promised a fleet of autonomous robotaxis would be on the road the following year, but the company's "Full Self-Driving" software is still being tested by selected Tesla owners on public roads.

The company is the largest maker of electric vehicles in the U.S. and the world.

Musk said this year will be about scaling up the Austin factory as well as a new one in Germany.

He also said the company may start building a robot in 2023. "Next year there's going to be a massive wave of new products," he told the crowd Thursday night.

Musk has said the Austin-area plant will employ up to 10,000 workers.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Nissan and NASA team on battery

TOKYO — Nissan is working with NASA on a new type of battery for electric vehicles that promises to charge quicker and be lighter yet safe, the Japanese automaker said Friday.

The all-solid-state battery will replace the lithium-ion battery now in use for a 2028 product launch and a pilot plant launch in 2024, according to Nissan.

The all-solid-state battery is stable enough to be used in pacemakers. When finished, it will be about half the size of the current battery and fully charge in 15 minutes, instead of a few hours.

The collaboration with the U.S. space program involves the testing of various materials, Corporate Vice President Kazuhiro Doi told reporters.

UK: Travel delays may last months

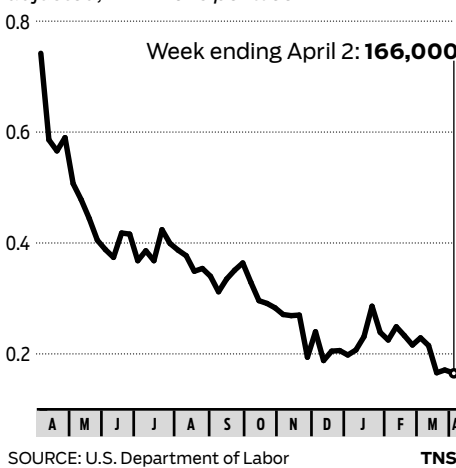
LONDON — A major British airport warned passengers on Friday to expect the delays plaguing travel to continue for months, as the U.K. aviation regulator told the country's air industry to shape up after weeks of canceled flights and long airport lines.

The head of Manchester Airport in northwest England said passengers could face waits of up to 90 minutes to get through security "over the next few months."

Travelers in Britain have suffered days of delays during the current school spring break, with British Airways and easyJet canceling hundreds of flights because of coronavirus-related staff absences, and long lines building at airport check-in, security and baggage points.

Jobless claims

Initial unemployment claims, seasonally adjusted, in millions per week



Organizer Chris Smalls, center, celebrates on April 1 after getting election results to unionize workers at the Amazon warehouse on Staten Island, New York. Union organizers now will try to negotiate their first contract with the online retail giant. **EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ/AP**

After upset win, new hurdles

Next step for Amazon's 1st union in US is negotiating a contract with the online giant

By Haleluya Hadero
and Anne D'Innocenzio
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When a scrappy group of former and current warehouse workers on Staten Island, New York, went head-to-head with Amazon in a union election, many compared it to a David and Goliath battle.

David won. And the stunning upset this month brought sudden exposure to the organizers and worker advocates who realized victory for the nascent Amazon Labor Union when so many other more established labor groups had failed before them, including most recently by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union in Bessemer, Alabama.

Chris Smalls, a fired Amazon worker who heads the ALU, has been critical of the RWDSU's campaign, saying it didn't have enough local support. Instead, he chose an independent path, believing workers orga-

nizing themselves would be more effective and undercut Amazon's narrative that "third party" groups were driving union efforts.

"They were not perceived as outsiders, so that's important," said Ruth Milkman, a sociologist of labor and labor movements at the City University of New York.

While the odds were stacked against both union drives, with organizers facing off against a deep-pocketed retailer with an uninterrupted track record of keeping unions out of its U.S. operations, ALU was decidedly underfunded and understaffed compared with the RWDSU. Smalls said as of early March, ALU had raised and spent about \$100,000 and was operating on a week-to-week budget. The group doesn't have its own office space, and was relying on community groups and two unions to lend a hand. A lawyer offered pro bono assistance.

Meanwhile, Amazon routinely held mandatory meetings with workers to argue why unions are a bad idea. In a filing released last week, the company disclosed it spent about \$4.2 million last year on labor consultants, who organizers say Amazon hired to persuade workers not to unionize.

Outmatched financially, Smalls and

others relied on their ability to reach workers more personally by making TikTok videos and holding barbecues and cookouts.

Kate Andrias, professor of law at Columbia University and an expert in labor law, noted a successful union always has to be built by the workers themselves.

"This was a clearer illustration of this," Andrias said. "The workers did this on their own."

Amazon's missteps may have also contributed to the election outcome on Staten Island. Bert Flickinger III, a managing director at the consulting firm Strategic Resource Group, said derogatory comments by a company executive leaked from an internal meeting calling Smalls "not smart or articulate" backfired.

"It came out as condescending and it helped to galvanize workers," Flickinger said.

Now, ALU organizers are preparing for a challenging negotiation process for a labor contract.

The group has demanded Amazon officials to come to the table in early May. But experts say the retail giant, which has signaled plans to challenge the election results, will likely drag its feet.

Russia slashes interest rate as ruble settles

Associated Press

LONDON — Russia's central bank has managed to stabilize key aspects of the economy with severe controls, artificially propping up the ruble to allow it to rebound to levels seen before the invasion of Ukraine even as the West piles on more sanctions.

That became evident as central bank of Russia said Friday that it was lowering its benchmark interest rate and said more rate cuts could be on the way. The decision indicates it thinks strict capital controls and other strict measures are stabilizing Russia's currency and financial system despite severe pressure from U.S. and European sanctions.

The bank lowered its benchmark rate

from 20% to 17%, effective Monday. The interest rate cut reflected "the changed balance of risks" among inflation, economic growth and banking system stability, the bank said.

It had raised the rate from 9.5% on Feb. 28, four days after the invasion, as a way to support the ruble's plunging exchange rate. A currency collapse would worsen already high inflation for Russian shoppers by ballooning the cost of imported goods.

The ruble fell from 79 to the dollar the day before the invasion to as low as 139 to the dollar. But it has since recovered to around 77 rubles to the dollar in very limited trading, bolstered by drastic measures such as forcing companies to exchange 80% of foreign currency for rubles and barring

foreign investors from selling out of their ruble holdings.

Russia has pressed buyers of its oil and gas to pay in rubles, without much success, although Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has expressed that he would be willing.

The bank said weekly price data showed "a substantial slowdown in the pace of price increases, partly as a result of the dynamic of the ruble's exchange rate." The official inflation figure for February was 9.2%.

Western sanctions have dealt a severe blow to the economy, cutting major banks off from international transactions, freezing central bank reserves and leading many Western companies to abandon their businesses in Russia.

BUSINESS



Businesses and individuals were told this week they must convert foreign currency into Myanmar's currency. Above, a man holds currency in Yangon, Myanmar. THEIN ZAW/AP 2020

Myanmar's forced currency conversion has many worried

By Elaine Kurtenbach
Associated Press

BANGKOK — An order by Myanmar's central bank that all foreign currency in bank accounts must be converted into the local currency has many in the military-ruled country worried over potential losses.

Businesses and individuals were told in a notice issued Sunday that as of Monday they must convert dollars and other foreign currency into kyats within one day or face legal consequences.

Foreign currency can only be sent overseas with government approval, it said.

It said further details of the rules would follow.

Myanmar's military leaders are facing a raft of sanctions after they seized power in February 2021, ousting the country's elected government.

The order to hand over foreign exchange suggests the authorities may be running short of hard currency needed to pay debts and purchase key supplies such as oil, gas and weapons.

Hard currency is also needed to repay foreign debt, which for Myanmar stands at \$10 billion to \$11 billion.

The central bank order instructed holders of foreign currency accounts in Myanmar to open new accounts to convert funds into kyats.

People earning foreign currency are supposed to also convert their money into kyats, which are not a convertible currency and are not supposed to be taken out of the country.

An official from Kanbawza Bank said Tuesday that some traders and sailors had come in to inquire about opening the required new business accounts but most said they would "think about it."

The bank staffer, who spoke on condition, said account holders were worried they would lose money since the exchange rate set by the central bank, 1,850 kyats per dollar, is below the prevailing black market rate of 2,030 kyats per dollar.

Of seven people with foreign currency accounts asked about the order, most said they had not opened

new accounts and were unsure about the consequences.

A businessman at a trading company said businesses already have such accounts and banks have been converting their export earnings into kyats.

After the military took power last year, Western governments imposed targeted sanctions on the military, military affiliated companies, officials and their families. Their foreign assets were frozen, at a time when the country had lost a large share of earnings from tourism due to the pandemic.

Myanmar's foreign reserves stood at nearly \$7.8 billion as of December 2020, according to the World Bank.

The administration recently said it plans to reopen the borders to foreign tourism in mid-April.

That might alleviate pressures on the country's finances somewhat, though its unclear how much tourism can be expected at a time when experts say resistance to the coup has left the Southeast Asian country on the brink of civil war.

Overhaul nursing home care, funding system, report says

By Matt Sedensky
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nursing home residents are subjected to ineffective care and poor staffing, while facility finances are shrouded in secrecy and regulatory lapses go unenforced, according to a report this week that called for wholesale changes in an industry whose failures have been spotlighted by the pandemic.

To anyone who saw the scourge of COVID-19 on the country's most vulnerable, the findings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine might seem sobering but unsurprising, as the long-term care system's inadequacies were made plain by more than 150,000 resident deaths. The authors of the 605-page report insist it could be an impetus to address issues that have gotten little more than lip service for decades.

"The public is so concerned about the quality of care that most people really fear their family having to be in a nursing home," said Betty Ferrell, a nurse who chaired the report committee. "We're very optimistic that our government officials will respond to what has really been a travesty."

The report covers a vast cross-section of long-term care, from granular details such as the way facilities are designed to foundational issues that would require massive political capital and investment to address.

Among them: The authors advocate for creating a new national long-term care system that would exist outside of Medicaid, the program that is at the center of most long-term care financing.

The likelihood of such a proposal successfully winding its way through Congress seems low in the current political climate.



A woman holds a flower-adorned walker that once belonged to her mother who died of COVID-19 while at a New York nursing home. JOHN MINCHILLO/AP 2020

The most recent federal attempt to reform long-term care financing was a voluntary long-term care insurance program known as the CLASS Act. It was included in the Affordable Care Act but later repealed when the Obama administration found it unworkable.

"It has been a long time since we as a country have been wanting to dig in and reform how we finance, pay, regulate and delivery nursing home services," said David Grabowski, a nursing home expert and Harvard Medical School professor who served on the report committee.

Katie Smith Sloan, who leads LeadingAge, which represents nonprofit nursing homes, called the report "a piercing wake-up call" about an industry "in desperate need of an overhaul." The success of remaking the system, Smith Sloan said, would depend on how the government addresses funding.

"As policymakers consider how to enact the report's recommendations, they must back their actions with sufficient funding to make changes a reality," she said. "Without that, the committee's work will be for naught."

On the issue of nursing home staffing, which advocates have repeatedly said is too low, too untrained and

too underpaid, the report's authors called for facilities to have at least one registered nurse on duty at all times and for an infection prevention and control specialist and social worker to also be on staff.

More broadly, across all staffing in homes, including nurse aides who make up the bulk of front-line caregivers, the authors called for additional study on optimal staffing.

Industry lobbyists have fought against more stringent staffing requirements.

Federal law only requires nursing homes to have sufficient staff to meet residents' needs, but nearly all interpretation of what that means is left to states. President Joe Biden, too, has called for establishing national staffing minimums.

Among the more routine subjects in the report, but one that nonetheless impacts residents' everyday lives, the authors call for homes to prioritize private rooms and bathrooms instead of the communal ones that can fuel infections and underscore the institutional setting.

And in a blunt reminder of how bleak life in nursing homes can be, the report notes most residents spend "little if any time outdoors," calling for facilities to make outside access more accessible.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, April 9, 2022

▲ **DOW**
34,721.12 +137.55

▲ **10-YR T-BOND**
2.71% +0.6

▲ **GOLD**
\$1,941.60 +7.80

Dow Jones Industrials
Close: 34,721.12
Change: 137.55 (0.4%)

10 DAYS

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	98.26	96.03	+30.65%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	6.28	6.36	+68.31%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.13	3.04	+40.54%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,941.60	1,933.80	+6.24%
Silver (oz)	24.82	24.73	+6.39%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3039	.7669
Canada	.7956	1.2569
China	.1571	6.3651
Euro	1.0885	.9187
Japan	.008040	124.37
Mexico	.049918	20.0331

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.50	3.50
3-mo. T-Bill	0.70	0.52
6-mo. T-Bill	1.16	1.04
5-yr T-Note	2.73	2.42
10-yr T-Note	2.71	2.33
30-yr T-Bond	2.71	2.44

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,283.67	-234.49	-1.62%	-10.08%
London	7,669.56	+117.75	+1.56%	+3.86%
Hong Kong	21,872.01	+63.03	+0.29%	+6.52%
Nikkei	26,985.80	+97.23	+0.36%	-6.27%

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,721.12	+137.55	-4.45%
DOW Trans.	14,470.72	-133.27	-12.18%
DOW Util.	1,070.84	+3.07	+9.18%
NYSE Comp.	16,689.95	+58.51	-2.76%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,711.00	-186.30	-12.36%
S&P 500	4,488.28	-11.93	-5.83%
S&P 400	2,617.09	-2.08	-7.91%
Wilshire 5000	44,927.40	-163.14	-7.29%
Russell 2000	1,994.56	-15.24	-11.17%

Stocks of Local Interest							
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	18.24	-1.49	-32.9	MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	39.20	+0.2	-12.7
AT&T Inc (T)	24.14	+4.1	-1.9	MedAvail Holdings (MDVL)	1.96	+5.5	+40.0
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	101.00	-2.72	-29.8	MetLife Inc (MET)	70.61	+1.06	+13.0
Akebia Therapeutics (AKBA)	.54	+0.0	-75.9	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	296.97	-4.40	-11.7
Amphenol Corp (APH)	73.28	-.69	-16.2	Mullen Automotive (MULN)	2.51	+1.3	-52.0
Apple Inc (AAPL)	170.09	-2.05	-4.2	Novartis AG (NVS)	92.73	+1.33	+6.0
Aterian Inc (ATER)	4.67	+8.2	+13.6	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	231.19	-10.89	-21.4
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	48.20	+8.2	-3.4	Occid Petl (OXY)	61.80	+4.12	+113.2
Bank of America (BAC)	39.67	+2.8	-10.8	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	77.24	-.30	-11.3
Barnes Group (B)	36.97	-.98	-20.6	PG&E Corp (PCG)	12.84	+5.0	+5.8
Biocryst Phar (BCRX)	11.12	-6.76	-19.7	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	12.70	-.14	-30.3
Biofrontera Inc (BFRI)	4.62	+5.8	-38.6	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	55.17	+0.1	-6.6
BitNile Holdings Inc (NILE)	.60	-.03	-49.7	Phio Pharmaceuticals (PHIO)	2.35	+1.44	+135.0
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2167.42	-45.78	-9.7	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.95	+0.8	-25.3
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	77.77	+5.1	+24.7	Prudential FncI (PRU)	116.71	+2.06	+7.8
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	106.61	+3.00	+3.3	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	72.09	+4.8	+8.0
Carnival Corp (CCL)	18.34	-.40	-8.8	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	100.40	-.58	+16.7
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	43.38	-.31	-20.0	Robinhood Markets A (HOOD)	11.24	-.83	-36.7
Charter Communic (CHTR)	557.90	+5.12	-14.5	Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.35	+4.5	-.2
Cigna Corp (CI)	257.00	+2.77	+12.3	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	73.06	+0.1	-10.9
Citigroup (C)	50.88	+8.5	-15.7	SeaChange Intl Inc (SEAC)	1.22	+0.5	-23.8
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	47.42	+2.7	-5.8	SoFi Technol Inc (SOFI)	7.87	-.25	-50.2
Disney (DIS)	131.87	...	-14.9	Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	8.00	+3.3	+71.7
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	113.38	-1.12	-11.0	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	140.92	+1.81	-25.3
ENDRA Life Sciences (NDRA)	.32	-.12	-53.2	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.39	+0.8	-3.7
Ethan Allen (ETD)	25.03	+0.3	-4.8	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.56	-.02	-3.1
Eversource Energy (ES)	92.53	+3.9	+1.7	Sunshine BioPharma (SBFM)	6.03	-3.62	+152.3
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.36	-.02	-59.1	Terex Corp (TEX)	32.67	-.77	-25.7
Excicure Inc (XCUR)	.21	+0.0	+5.0	Tilray Brands Inc (TLRY)	6.40	-.08	-9.0
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	86.84	+1.79	+41.9	Travelers Cos (TRV)	184.86	+2.77	+18.2
Ford Motor (F)	15.05	+0.9	-27.5	Twitter Inc (TWTR)	46.23	-1.80	+7.0
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.39	-.19	+3.7	United Rentals (URI)	317.05	-3.87	-4.6
Gen Dynamics (GD)	242.04	-1.57	+16.1	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	545.96	+9.01	+8.7
Gen Electric (GE)	89.74	+2.8	-5.0	Verizon Comm (VZ)	53.53	+8.6	+3.0
HP Inc (HPQ)	38.63	-1.43	+2.5	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	203.80	-14.52	-31.4
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	74.13	+1.68	+7.4	Voya Financial (VOYA)	66.61	+9.0	+5
Honeywell Intl (HON)	190.16	-2.54	-8.8	Webster Financial (WBS)	50.00	-.19	-10.5
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	14.30	+2.2	-10.2	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	48.73	+9.9	+1.6
Hydrocft Mining Holdg (HYMC)	2.16	+1.6	+251.8	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1100.35	-15.63	+8.5
IQV Inc Inc (IQ)	4.36	-.27	-4.4	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	61.49	-.27	+24.6
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	23.70	-.12	-6.4	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	60.90	-.48	-21.3
Kaman (KAMN)	40.99	-1.40	-5.0	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	19.19	-.19	-15.2
Keycorp (KEY)	20.77	+0.4	-10.2				
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	64.21	+1.24	-5.9				
M&T Bank (MTB)	163.07	+1.86	+6.2				

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OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Biden didn't choose from fair pool of candidates

The immediate focus on the Courant cover of March 27 is such a strong and sensible quote — “If your pool of candidates is restricted to one particular group or segment of the population, then there’s no way you can say you hired the best person.”

It is frighteningly ironic that the hypocrisy of politics, as well as a misguided social voice, led Joe Biden to ignore such critical thinking. He openly did the exact opposite in establishing his prime selection criteria toward choosing a candidate pool for his VP running mate and Supreme Court nominee. And many actually lauded this restrictive screening process, contrary to Prof. Nefertiti Walker’s laudable thought.

While this quoted objective is genuinely appropriate for general hiring, it is not deemed appropriate to apply the same mindset to selecting some of the most important roles in our country’s government. I find that attitude from our nation’s leader irresponsible and untenable, regardless of the actual outcome, which is not my specific complaint here. Biden was free to select whomever he wanted, but the American public should never have accepted his restrictive comments on how he would make that selection.

Tom Midney, Bloomfield

Congress, Biden inept at policing our border

Under President Donald Trump, our southern border was secured. The Biden administration has destroyed this security. The Democrats have an open-border policy, violating not only the Constitution, but also immigration laws. Criminals, possible terrorists, and sick people are invading our border, not to mention the drugs that are pouring in. Democrats are putting American citizens in danger.

According to the Constitution, Congress is in charge of immigration. So where are Sens. Blumenthal, Murphy or Reps. Larson, DeLauro, Himes, Courtney and Hayes? They took an oath to support the Constitution and all we hear is silence concerning chaos and danger at the border. Next November, let’s put people in power who will actually put the safety of Americans first.

Carol Marino, Middletown

GOP badgering of Jackson was disheartening

Grand Old Party? More like Gutter Obstructionist Politics. The GOP is a shadow of its former self. It stands for nothing. Its platform is imagined grievances. We witnessed the badgering, bullying and disrespect during the confirmation hearings for Ketanji Brown Jackson. Judge Jackson is the most highly qualified person to be considered for a position on the Supreme Court in a long time. She is far more qualified than the recent three nominees rammed through with little vetting. Instead of asking intelligent questions, the Republican senators were simply performing for the basest of their base. Their racism was front and center. They were given a chance to act with decency and once again they failed.

Through it all, Judge Jackson conducted herself with the grace they all seem to lack. Calm and respectful despite their attacks on her character. Some brought up the treatment of Brett Kavanaugh, who was belligerent and disrespectful.

Francine Michaud, Windsor Locks

Year-round DST failed once, it’ll fail again

Sometime around 1971 we had Daylight Saving Time for a year. Children went to school in pitch blackness. People went to work in pitch blackness. And it was colder. It was an unmitigated disaster and they decided never to do it again.

Marsha Birch, Essex

Don't call KBJ soft on crime, then brush off Jan. 6

Am I missing something, or aren’t the people who are accusing Ketanji Brown Jackson of being soft on crime many of the same people who described the Jan. 6 insurrection, where government property was destroyed and stolen, and Capitol police officers were assaulted resulting in one officer losing his life, as “legitimate political discourse?” Really?

Jeff Winick, West Hartford

If Clintons are corrupt, Trump ups it a level

Richard Brown’s letter (March 25) misses the point of Mark Slitt’s letter and reveals only his bias. Hillary Clinton conceded her loss to Donald Trump within 24 hours. The concession is the hallmark of our democracy — it ensures a smooth transmission of power. Trump is the only loser not to concede.

Sec. Clinton did question the influence of Russia in the election — which Mr. Trump requested in speeches, indicated in selecting Paul Manafort as his campaign manager, and demonstrated in his relationship with Vladimir Putin. Perhaps Mr. Brown should examine the corruption of Gov. Rod Blagojevich — pardoned by Trump — before he declares Clinton “the most corrupt politician of our times.” Many Democrats and some Republicans would bestow that honor on the 45th president. If the Clintons are corrupt, Trump does them better.

Thomas Brophy, Ellington



Rodney Butler, chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, participates in the Schemitzun grand entry on Mashantucket Pequot Reservation in Mashantucket on Aug. 28. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

OP-ED

Approve legislation respecting tribal sovereignty in tax policy

By Rodney Butler

I was recently reelected to my seventh term on the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council and my fifth term as chairman. By the end of this term, I will have served my Nation for 21 years. I share this to highlight that, like the state of Connecticut, our Pequot Tribal Nation is a fully functioning sovereign government.

Our tribe raises revenue like any other government to support social services and economic development, to maintain and improve infrastructure, to invest in cultural arts and youth programming, and to fund police, fire and emergency services. We too, adopt annual operating and capital improvement budgets.

Years ago, a misguided Second Circuit Court decision compromised our ability to raise revenue from businesses operating within the borders of Mashantucket by allowing an adjacent community to tax personal property of those same businesses. This, despite the fact, that the town itself provides no services to such businesses. Police, fire safety, facility maintenance, environmental regulation and more is all provided by our tribe. The irony here, our own tribal emergency forces participate in mutual aid agreements with surrounding cities and towns off-reservation.

Mashantucket has a veteran police force

of 22 POST certified officers. We have a fleet of 14 police vehicles, several full-service fire trucks, six male and three female holding cells, an Automated Fingerprint Identification System, a six-lane indoor gun range used as a training facility by federal and local officers, a judicial system that includes both trial and appellate level courts and dispute resolution.

The reservation includes a community center that houses government offices and council chambers, a swimming pool and full-size basketball court utilized by surrounding towns, and a cafeteria and recreation room. There’s also an early childhood care and education center on reservation, residential neighborhoods, a post office, a sugar shack, public works and tribal utility buildings all supporting our growing community.

Listing these services underscores the nature of tribal sovereignty and our legal right and ability to self-govern. Unfortunately, due to a lack of clarity in state statute, the court has undermined our capacity to do just that.

Fortunately, lawmakers have recognized the decades of inequity created by the decision and could resolve the issue this year by passing proposed legislation that recognizes the tribe’s sovereign status and acknowledges a municipality created by the state should not enter tribal territory to impose a tax.

This is the same public policy that recognizes East Hartford cannot impose taxes on Hartford businesses, regardless of the impact those businesses have on East Hartford.

Like many Native Americans across the country, the Pequot Tribe has endured massacre, enslavement, eradication of our culture, relocation to reservations and the selling of our land in violation of federal law. This is not to cast blame; rather to establish the context necessary to understand why the bill and the public policy it represents is so critical to the tribe.

The town of Ledyard already receives due compensation — federal education dollars, distributions from the Pequot-Mohegan Fund, PILOT payments and \$1.25 million annually from the state just because of its proximity to Foxwoods. The tribe is also among the town’s largest taxpayers paying \$800,000 annually for the Two Trees Inn located within the town’s borders.

Passage of An Act Establishing a Property Tax Exemption for Property Located on Certain Indian Lands would demonstrate a level of respect not often seen in Indian Country across the United States and once again demonstrate that Connecticut leads while others only follow.

Rodney Butler is chairman of Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

OP-ED

State by state, we divide further into red America, blue America

By E.J. Dionne Jr.

The Washington Post

SAN FRANCISCO — Former President Barack Obama’s visit to the White House on Tuesday was aimed at reminding anyone willing to listen of the success of the Affordable Care Act that he and President Joe Biden championed.

The law widely known as Obamacare has done a lot of good. But the event was an inadvertent reminder of something else: the extent to which we have become two nations even in public policy.

In his celebrated 2004 Democratic National Convention speech, Obama insisted that “there’s not a liberal America and a conservative America — there’s the United States of America.”

Eighteen years later, red states and blue states are moving further and further away from each other in how they deal with not just health care but a wide range of issues, including voting rights, climate change, guns, abortion, LGBTQ rights and education.

“Political polarization” goes from abstract to evident in the sharp contrast in state choices — and in how entrenched each party is becoming in states that have long leaned their way.

At the extreme, an unbridgeable gap among the states over slavery led to the Civil War. We are not at that point, but we can’t ignore how the hardening of political opinions, especially on the right, as well as the politics of cultural warfare and a series of Supreme Court decisions mean that state boundaries have a growing effect on how people live.

Tuesday’s White House event brought this home. In praising the Affordable Care Act as “the most consequential health care legislation passed in generations in our country,” Vice President Kamala Harris noted that it had expanded health

coverage to more than 30 million Americans. She also pointed to the 12 states that have refused to expand Medicaid under the law, leaving 4 million Americans “locked out of coverage.” This number includes 2.2 million who have no pathway to coverage at all.

The “Medicaid gap” was not supposed to happen. Originally, the ACA required all states to expand coverage. But in a move that substantially revised earlier understandings of federal power, the Supreme Court decision that declared Obamacare constitutional struck down the expansion requirement as violating states’ rights. A dozen deeply red states, eight of them in the South, have refused to participate, meaning that for millions of Americans, crossing a state line can deprive them of access to health insurance.

We are also two Americas when it comes to voting, thanks to the Supreme Court’s gutting of the Voting Rights Act. As of December, 19 states had enacted restrictions on ballot access even as 25 states expanded it, according to a Brennan Center for Justice tally.

And on abortion, the story is comparable. The Supreme Court’s tilt toward states’ rights could become sharper in an abortion decision expected later this year. Already, the court’s inclinations have called forth a burst of more restrictive laws in red states (see Oklahoma this week) and legislative guarantees of abortion rights in blue states.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also shown how state divides have become matters of life and death. In his State of the State message last month, California’s Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom openly contrasted his state’s policies and health outcomes with those of three Republican-led states. He was especially pointed about the record in Florida, where

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has waged war on vaccine and mask mandates.

“Our lockdowns, distressing as they were, saved lives,” Newsom said. “Our mask mandates saved lives. Your choices saved lives. California experienced far lower COVID death rates than any other large state. Fewer deaths than Texas, Ohio, fewer than Florida — 35% to be exact.”

Newsom spoke with pride about California’s liberal-leaning leadership, especially on climate issues. He repeatedly touted “the California Way” that rejected “exploiting division with performative politics and memes of the moment.” It was hard not to think that Newsom was laying out themes for a future presidential campaign.

It’s true that our system of federalism encourages useful experiments state-to-state that can pioneer new ways of solving problems. But the increasingly radical divergences threaten national cohesion and coherent policymaking on climate, COVID, health care, and more. Neither the coronavirus nor the atmosphere recognizes state boundaries.

The political writer Ron Brownstein, who has paid close attention to the impact of the growing divide, warned in The Atlantic in December of “a dramatic erosion of common national rights and a widening gulf — a ‘great divergence’ — between the liberties of Americans in blue states and those in red states.”

It’s hard to see any politician gaining much traction by launching a new national debate over what federalism should mean in 2022. But our ability to govern ourselves depends on facing up to the consequences of what is fast becoming an unsustainable approach to states’ rights.

E.J. Dionne Jr. writes about politics for The Washington Post.

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Announcements

Lost/Found

IMPOUND - #228 Spaniel Mix, Male
Tri Color. #229 German Shepherd
Male Black & brown. Call Hartford
PD 860-757-4000

IMPOUND - #230 Pitbull, Female,
Fawn Color,
Call Hartford PD 860-757-4000

Auto & SUV's

NISSAN ALTIMA 2019
\$24500 All Wheel Drive, Many
Options, Like New Condition 16,000
miles 860-605-6895

PONTIAC GRAND PRIX 2002 -
\$1200 OBO. GT. Runs, engine light
on, new parts. Call: 860-623-9570

VOLVO S70 2000 - \$4000 136,450
mi Well Maintd, Lthr Seats Bosch
Sound, Exc Cond 860-978-0183

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FORD MODELA 1929 - \$19500 4 dr,
blind back, older restoration, rebuilt
engine, L&B interior, runs & drives
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MERCEDES-BENZ 300SL 1991
\$17000 Excellent condition classic
convertible with hard top. Always
garaged. 802-436-2962

PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid
Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-
209-6629

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for any Toyota, other makes. Any
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models. 203-600-4431

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HARLEY DAVIDSON HERITAGE SOFT
TAIL CLASSIC 2012 - Mint cond,
only 9900 miles w/ many extras.
Asking \$10,900. 860-916-4773

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

Town of Lebanon Zoning Board of Appeals LEGAL NOTICE

The Lebanon Zoning Board of Appeals will
hold public hearings at Lebanon Town Hall,
Downstairs Conference Room, 579 Exeter
Road, Lebanon, CT, 06249 on Thursday, April
21, 2022, 7:00 p.m. for:

#ZBA-22-3: Riley & Sandra Leppo, 32
Lakeview Heights, Lebanon, CT, 06249 (own-
ers), for property at 444 Deepwood Drive,
Assessors Map 105, Lot 190. Variance
from Section 5.2 to reduce the setback from
the lake from 75 feet required to 61 feet
requested for construction of addition.

#ZBA-22-4: Jennifer Barone, 21 Millstone
Drive, Marlborough, CT, 06447 (owner),
for property at 232 Lakeside Drive, Assessors
Map 107, Lot 15. Appeal of Notice of
Violation and Cease and Desist Order,
claim of error by Zoning Enforcement Officer
pertaining to Section 9.2e, of the Town of
Lebanon Zoning Regulations.
#ZBA-22-5: Jennifer Barone, 21 Millstone
Drive, Marlborough, CT, 06447
(owner), for property at 232 Lakeside Drive,
Assessors Map 107, Lot 15. Variance from
Section 5.2 to reduce setback from the lake
from 75 feet required to 50 feet at the closest
point to construct a porch addition on an
existing deck.
Interested parties may appear and be heard
and written testimony received. Applications
and plans on file in Land Use Office. Dated
at Lebanon, CT this 7th day of April, 2022.
Hollie E. Smith, Recording Secretary
4/9 & 4/15/22 7188025

Connecticut

Farmington CT Minority Opportunity -
Silktown Roofing is currently soliciting SBE/
MBE/DBE subcontractors for Public Notice;
Farmington CT-Irving A Robbins MS New
Cafeteria Addition. Material Supply; flat stock
metal. Our bid submits on Monday, April
11, 2022. If additional time is needed for
your submission please call our estimating
department. Interested parties are asked
to contact us at subcontracting@silktown-roofing.com. An Affirmative Action/Equal
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4/9/2022 7188331

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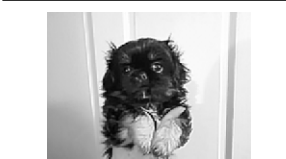
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and loved. Fun loving! Loves People!
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vet chkd, ready now. 860-942-2651



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Hypoallergenic & non shedding.
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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Colchester

John S Carraro

Enfield

Herbert D. Butler

Farmington

Thomas L. Carrier

Hartford

John S Carraro

Manchester

Clarence E. Schiebel

Douglas A. Stevens

Other Towns in CT

Betty C. Gibson

Out of State

Betty C. Gibson

Ernest E. Libby

Douglas A. Stevens

South Windsor

Mary N. Digangi

Unionville

Thomas L. Carrier

Melvin Davis

Vernon

Mary N. Digangi

Ernest E. Libby

Clarence E. Schiebel

West Hartford

Robert D Bagley

Wethersfield

Robert D Bagley

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Bagley, Robert D



Robert Dexter Bagley (Bob), age 77, of Irving, Texas, died on March 13, 2022 after a short battle with cancer. To view the complete obituary, please visit <https://www.ariacremation.com/obituary/robert-dexter-bagley/>

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

DiGangi, Mary N.



Mary Nancy DiGangi, 93, of Vernon and formerly of South Windsor and Hartford, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 3, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. Born in Hartford on August 21, 1928, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Celestina (Franco) DiGangi. Mary was a skilled hairdresser and started her career at Sage-Allen's Beauty Salon. She eventually opened her own salon on Broad St. in Hartford. She was a long-time parishioner of St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Hartford and a member of the South End Seniors of Hartford. Over the years, Mary received much joy from her K-9 companions, Christy, Onyx, Trixie, and JJ. Mary is survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, James DiGangi.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 9 to 10 a.m. on Monday (April 11th) at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Monday at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church (Maria Reina de la Paz Parish), 494 New Britain Ave, Hartford. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to Smile Train online at www.smiletrain.org or mailed to: SmileTrain, PO Box 96231 Washington, DC 20090. To share a memory of Mary with her family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.



D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Libby, Ernest Earl



Ernest Earl Libby, Jr. of Bluffton, S.C., passed away on Wednesday evening at his home after a short illness, with the second love of his life and longtime companion, Edith Longhenry. He was born on July 29, 1936 in Fort Fairfield, Maine, in his family home, to Ernest and Olive (Sprague) Libby, Sr. He was predeceased by the first love of his life, his wife of 48 years, Suzanne Barton (Olson) Libby in 2003 and an infant son, Scott Forbes Libby. Surviving him to cherish his memory, are his three children Denise (John) Sabilia, Jason (Donna) Libby and Adam Libby. He is also survived by his 6 grandchildren, Adrienne Sabilia, David Sabilia, Eric Libby, Amanda (Dan) Wilson, Joshua Libby and John "Jack" Libby. Also surviving him are his younger sister Mary Fournier, his brother-in-law Harry Olson, his sister-in-law Patricia "Patty" (Pitney) Olson, his sister-in-law Laura Myrtle Libby and many nieces and nephews. He was also predeceased by his 7 older siblings, Harold, Richard, Gilbert, Adelaide Page, Dorothy Whitmore, Elizabeth Libby and Kathleen Holt.

Ernest moved from Maine to Connecticut as a teenager and as a young adult worked in construction. He soon started his first business, Libby Construction which he operated until the late 1970's. One of the biggest projects he was proud of was, the building of Mystic Village in Mystic, CT. He later was a partner or owner of Allen Electric, Solar Insulation, Morgan Foundation, The Gutterman and C&R Insulation. The latter is still operated by his eldest son Jason. In retirement, he moved to Estero, FL followed by a final move to Bluffton, SC where he made many new friends who are saddened by his passing.

A grave side will be held in Connecticut at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's hospital or the American Cancer Society.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Schiebel, Clarence Earl



Clarence "Mickey" Earl Schiebel, 97 of Cookeville, TN formally of Vernon, CT, beloved husband of the late Muriel S. Schiebel who predeceased Clarence in 2013, has been called to that spiritual resting place by the Grand Architect of the Universe on March 31, 2022.

Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family for



calling hours at the Ladd-Turkington and Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road, Vernon, CT on Monday, April 11, 2022, from 5-7 pm with a Masonic Service honoring Clarence at 6:30 pm. A memorial service to celebrate Clarence's life will be held at the First Congregational Church of Vernon, 695 Hartford Turnpike (Route 30) Vernon, CT, on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 11:00 am. Interment will follow in the Church's Memorial Garden with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Vernon or your favorite charity of choice. To view the full obituary or for online condolences and guest book, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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OBITUARIES

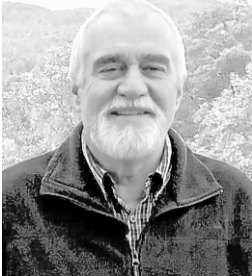
Carraro, John S



John Carraro, 85, went to be with the Lord February 1, 2022. He was born September 26, 1936, in Albany, NY, the son of Harry and Hellen Carraro. He was an only child and worked in his uncle's grocery store from the age of 10 until attending college. There he enlisted in the ROTC program, where his natural ability to lead, teach and ensue confidence became quickly apparent obtaining him the rank of Sergeant. Single and young he revered those days and often told stories of his adventures and the lifelong friendships they had shaped. A graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in physics, he quickly realized he was born to be an engineer. He eventually left the Army to pursue his dream job working as an engineer. He settled in a small country town, where he raised a family and worked for 45 years at Pratt & Whitney, where he traveled the world diagnosing and solving jet engine mechanical issues. His relaxed temperament and endless knowledge made him the perfect choice to represent the company. After retirement he volunteer his time working for Habitat for Humanity, building houses for those in need. A fierce competitor, basketball, tennis, skiing and of course a relaxing game of cards was always welcome. He loved to make people laugh and a quick joke or funny story was always on the tip of his tongue. Like many of us he overcame the many obstacles of life, but truly shined when he gave his life to Christ. He found peace and walked with a wisdom from above helping many who came to him. He was truly loved and will be dearly missed. He is survived by his four children, 8 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Carrier, Thomas Lawrence



Thomas Lawrence Carrier, 68, passed away peacefully on April 4, 2022. Tom was born in Hartford, CT as the second youngest of five children. After graduating from South Catholic High School, he attended Central Connecticut State University earning a BS Degree in Marketing. Tom had a varied work career. His favorite work experience was at Woodmere Associates, a company founded by his brother Richard. Tom also enjoyed working at Charles W. House & Sons, The Hartford, and Prudential. An active member of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in Unionville, Tom helped fundraise for the new church, served on many committees, was a Eucharistic Minister, and was involved with religious education. Tom was an avid sports fan who enjoyed tailgating with his wife and UConn football family, playing golf with his buddies in the Farmington Golf League, and rooting for the NY Giants. He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years Theresa (Terri) Carrier, daughter Danielle Carrier and her partner Alexander Ozburn, Christine Robertson and her husband Bryan, beloved grandchildren Isla and Reid Robertson, siblings JoAnn Carrier, Christine Carrano & her husband Al, and sister-in-law Debby Carrier, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents Jeanne & Eugene Carrier, brother Richard Carrier, and sister Deborah Bramucci. Family was very important to Tom and he enjoyed many family get-togethers with his immediate and large extended family, especially his niece & nephew's SuperBowl Party where he could spend time with their families. The Carrier Family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the nurses and PCAs on Bliss 8 and CB4 for their care and compassion, especially Lindsey, Dawn, Dat, Tony, Marlene, Monika, Tenzin, Jenna, and Palliative Care Nurse, Mary Brennan, APRN. Family and friends may call at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main St., Rt. 4, Unionville, on Sunday (Apr. 10) from 2:00-5:00pm. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated Monday (Apr. 11) at 10:30am in the Church of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Unionville followed by burial in St. Mary Cemetery, Avon. All are kindly asked to meet directly at church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To send online condolences to the family, please visit www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Davis, Melvin



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Melvin W. Davis. Mel passed peacefully at home, in Unionville, where he lived most of his 99 years. Melvin was a WWII US Army Veteran, serving proudly in Normandy from 1943 to 1945. He was extremely proud of his service to our country and could recount many of his experiences with explicit



detail.

After being employed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 45 years, Mel retired. He enjoyed an occasional golf outing, dabbling in selling real estate, tinkering around the yard, or relaxing with the newspaper. Mel also enjoyed gardening (he loved his tomatoes!!), going to OTB, and even did some woodworking. He enjoyed receiving lottery scratch-off tickets and would love it when he would be lucky enough to scratch off a winning ticket. An avid Boston Red Sox, UConn Huskies, and golf fan, Mel rarely missed a televised event. In his later years, one could always find Mel working on a word puzzle, doing some Sudoku, and most recently finding some new recipes for his son Tim to make. Tim was his primary caregiver and took excellent care of Mel, always ensuring his comfort and needs were met.

Mel was predeceased by his wife of 59 years Frances Gregerick Davis, as well as his brother Gerald "Buddy" Davis and sister Frances Davis Cooke. He leaves behind his sons, Tim Davis and Michael Davis both of Unionville; his daughter Annmarie Davis of Torrington; granddaughter Lindsay Audibert and her husband Andrew Audibert of Torrington; his granddaughter Heather Davis of Middletown; his 2-year-old grandson Michael Carter Davis of Naugatuck; and 9-month-old great-granddaughter Claire Frances Audibert of Torrington. He loved to see those babies!! Mel also leaves behind several nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank our longtime caregiver Kim Smith for her excellent care of Mel. She always made sure he was cared for, comfortable, and treated him with dignity. In addition, and in Mel's final days, we had caregiver LizBetsy who always treated Mel with kindness, respect, and dignity. The family also wishes to thank the staff at Hartford Healthcare Hospice at Home, and Athena Home Health Care for their support and kindness; and Father Josh of St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church in Unionville for his kindness and blessings. Family and friends may call at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main St., Rt. 4, Unionville, on Monday, April 11th from 11:30am to 12:30pm followed by The Funeral Liturgy in in the Church of St. Mary Star of the Sea Unionville at 1:00pm. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to American Heart Association or American Stroke Association to PO Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692. To send online condolences to the family, please visit www.ahernfuneralhome.com

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Stevens, Douglas Arthur



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Douglas Arthur Stevens; Doug passed in the early morning hours of Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

Doug was born on January 16, 1941, in Watertown, New York, to Arthur and Marguerite (Hutchins) Stevens. Shortly thereafter, the family relocated to Manchester, Connecticut, where he remained through his graduation from Manchester High School in 1959. It was during his high school years that he joined the swim team, winning several medals in competition. After graduation he went on to Miami University of Ohio in Cincinnati where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics. From there, he began a long professional IT career, working for several corporations including IBM, ITT, and CIGNA, from where he retired. During his professional career he returned to university and earned his MBA from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Shortly before retiring from his professional career, he was reunited with his high school sweetheart, Judith Ordway. This was the beginning of a fantastic journey for both Doug and Judy; they travelled the world all the while Doug recorded these adventures through the lens of his new favorite hobby, digital photography. These travels took them to the far reaches of the globe including Scotland, India, Nepal, Bali, Singapore, Paris, France and, their favorite (maybe Judy's favorite) location, Italy.

Doug had a voracious appetite, always in search of the bargain breakfast consisting of eggs broken over hard with bacon, home fries, and toast; he never turned down a good piece of rare roast beef or lamb, nora fine two-finger pour of his favorite scotch or a good red wine. Red tulips were his favorite flower; he was usually inclined to involve family at gatherings to assist in planting bulbs. Doug was also extremely proud of his Scottish heritage, with strong ties to the Clan Forsyth. Doug made friends wherever he travelled and spent many mornings with the "grumpy old men," drinking free coffee at their gathering spot in Coral Springs, Florida.

Eventually, Doug and Judy relocated to the Lakes Region of New Hampshire to be closer to family where Doug spent the remainder of his days with his wife and Golden Retrievers looking over Lake Winnisquam, enjoying the peaceful beauty of the lake, watching the eagles and, the various boats floating by.

Doug was predeceased by his parents.

Doug leaves behind his true love, Judy Stevens, Laconia, NH; his three children from his first marriage to Susan; Fiona Stevens (Michael Tellier), Windham CT, Sarah Burgess (Kristian), Union ME, and Andrew Stevens (Ruth Chab), Chelmsford, MA; his stepsons, Dexter Klock, Driggs, ID, and Douglas Klock (Kellie), Meredith NH; his grandchildren, Britt Stevens (Sean), Kieran Mooney, Malakai Mooney, Emma Burgess, Laura Burgess, Noah Burgess, Amelia Burgess, and Owen Burgess. He also leaves his beloved Golden Retriever, Riley Stevens. Dougwill be truly missed by all who knew him, most of all, his family.

No calling hours will be held.

A brief graveside service will be conducted at Bayside Cemetery, 1345 Union Avenue, Laconia New Hampshire 03246, at 10:30am on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

A gathering will immediately follow at Laconia Country Club, 607 Elm Street, Laconia.

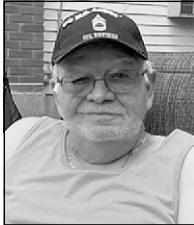
In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions to the New Hampshire Humane Society, PO Box 572, Laconia, NH 03247-0572.

Wilkinson-Beane-Simoneau-Paquette Funeral Home & Cremation Services and 603Cremations.com, Laconia, NH, is assisting the family with arrangements. For more information and to view an online memorial, please visit www.wilkinsonbeane.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
CHUCK BARRERA JR



10/27/46 4/9/21

Today you've been gone a year, I still can't believe you're gone. Life is so different without you, but I know you're not in any pain anymore. Love and miss you forever! Chickey

In Loving Memory Of
BURT CARLSON



June 23, 1925 – April 9, 1997

We have missed you for 25 years Dad

Love – Jeff and Patty

In Loving Memory Of
MARGARET STEWART



Jan 2, 1915 - April 9, 2001

Mom, you are missed.

Love, Linda & Jim

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Killingly school board chair resigns

Joly steps down after vote against school-based mental health center prompts parents to ask state for investigation

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Janice Joly, chair of the Killingly Board of Education, resigned Friday, the district's superintendent confirmed. Joly and the voting majority of the Killingly school board have been criticized within the community in recent weeks for voting to

reject a proposal to create a school-based mental health center despite the pleas of students and staff. A group of more than 50 Killingly residents have since asked the state Department of Education to investigate the school board. In a brief letter to the town clerk, Joly did not explain her rationale for resigning. "Please be advised that effective

immediately, on Friday, April 8, 2022, I am resigning my position as a member of the Killingly Board of Education," Joly wrote. Joly's name has been removed from the Killingly school board website. Joly had been with the Killingly school board since early 2020, following the resignation of Karen Fremuth in February of that year,

according to the Norwich Bulletin. She became board vice chair soon after and was named board chair after former board chair Douglas Farrow left in January. Robert Angeli, superintendent of Killingly Public Schools, commended Joly for making the time- and labor-intensive commitment to serving on the school board. "I thank her for her civic-mindedness and her willingness to serve on the Board of Education," Angeli said. "I wish her well in whatever future activities she gets involved

in." Angeli's administration helped create the school-based mental health center plan that the Killingly school board eventually voted down. As part of the presentation to the board, the administration shared results of a survey conducted by SERAC, a nonprofit focused on mental health in eastern Connecticut, that revealed a concerning prevalence of mental health challenges among Killingly students. Nearly 15% of Killingly students

Turn to **Resign**, Page 2



Morgan Artibani, 9, of Brookfield, takes a photo of Anthony Fillie of Litchfield holding a 21-inch brown trout he had just caught on the west branch of the Farmington River in Riverton on Friday. Morgan was there with her father, not pictured, to help stock the river for the Riverton Fishing Derby that runs from 6 to 10 a.m. Saturday to celebrate Spring Fishing Day. Fillie released the trout after the photo was taken. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Spring Fishing Day is here

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Opening day for fishing in Connecticut, traditionally the second Saturday in April, has lost some significance now that trout angling is allowed year-round, but the state fisheries division still wants people to celebrate Spring Fishing Day Saturday. A public act passed last year says "there shall be no closed season for sport fishing of trout." State officials are working to iron out confusion concerning angling for all other freshwater species. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's

Year-round trout angling hasn't stopped the annual celebration to mark the start of the season

fisheries division has been stocking fish since mid-February, and more than 477,000 trout are to be released this spring into about 100 lakes and ponds and 130 rivers and streams. Stocking events are scheduled throughout the state on Saturday. Among the best places for families to fish are designated trout park ponds (portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Trout-Parks) and community fishing waters (portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/Freshwater/Community-Fishing-Waters).

Trout parks and community fishing waters are easily accessible, have picnic areas and other amenities nearby and are stocked frequently to ensure plenty of fish for children, families and novice anglers to catch, division Director Pete Aarrestad said. Also, families and young anglers will be able to help stock trout at 10 of the trout parks (includes ponds and streams) on Spring Fishing Day. The closed season for all species other than trout — from midnight on the last day in Febru-

ary through 6 a.m. on the second Saturday in April — is still in effect. The legislature's regulations review committee is to consider DEEP's proposed end to all closed fishing seasons in inland waters at its June meeting, Mike Beauchene, DEEP's supervising fisheries biologist, said. For decades, the motivation for a closed season has been to halt fishing while waters were stocked — "to create a Super Bowl-type event called opening day," Beauchene said. "We didn't want people to instantly fish for the trout we were stocking."

Turn to **Fishing**, Page 2

WEST HARTFORD Council hears residents' budget concerns

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

WEST HARTFORD — With an increase of 3.06% on the table for West Hartford's budget, some residents say the recent real estate revaluation will unevenly spread the burden of the proposed increase. The \$317.9 million proposal includes \$119.4 million for town services, \$181.3 million for the Board of Education, and \$17.2 million for capital financing. At a public hearing Wednesday, resident Dmitriy Frumkin said it's the owners of lower-valued homes that will be hit the hardest. "It's an issue of the inequities created by the latest reassessments," Frumkin said. "It's a tax burden shift. The town's lowest property-valued homeowners, so the lowest wealth, lowest income homeowners are being hit with really astronomical tax increases." Frumkin said that the town's wealthier homeowners — with properties valued at \$1 million or more — are getting tax cuts or very small increases. Blue Back Square, according to Frumkin, is getting a tax cut of approximately 50%, and West Farms mall is getting approximately a 20% decrease. Revaluation, completed every five years to assess the value of taxable property, shifts the tax burden. During the pandemic a surge in the housing market and drop in the office market across the state, is expected to lead to higher tax bills for some homeowners. Frumkin asked for residents to lobby their legislature for tax reform, and to create a bracketed, or tiered, mill rate system. "It would help solve some of the inequities that are being created," he said, "and possibly any future ones." Andrew Bachman, who said he is a business owner and 36-year resident of the town, said that his business is seeing an approximate inflation of approximately 15% in his costs. He added that tax incentives for larger businesses coming into town hurt small businesses and residents.

Turn to **Budget**, Page 2

State treasurer's departure sets off major scramble one month before conventions

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The sudden departure of Treasurer Shawn Wooden has set off a major scramble with only one month before the party conventions for an important job overseeing the state pension fund of about \$40 billion. Candidates being mentioned within hours of Wooden's announcement that he would not seek reelection this year included Hartford city treasurer Adam Cloud and attorney Arunan Arulampalam, who ran for treasurer in 2018 at the convention against Wooden. Others on the list include Karen DuBois-Walton, who briefly ran against New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker last year before dropping out of the race. Another potential candidate is Dita Bhargava of Greenwich, a former Wall Street trader who ran for governor before switching to treasurer. She lost in an August 2018 primary against Wooden.



The departure of state treasurer Shawn Wooden, right, has set off a scramble for his replacement. Wooden is shown with Ned Lamont, center, and the Rev. Scott Marks, of New Haven Rising. They were marching through the Dixwell neighborhood of New Haven during the 2018 gubernatorial campaign as they focused on youth safety, jobs and affordable housing. CATHERINE AVALONE/AP

"They say women don't work in finance, don't study coding or play the drums," she said in her 2018 campaign commercial. "I'm Dita Bhargava, and I did." She rejected the notion that

the treasurer is a politician's job, saying, "I've managed hundreds of millions of dollars. No candidate has more financial experience."

Turn to **Treasurer**, Page 2

Lamont symptomatic but feeling fine after testing positive for COVID-19

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — One day after testing positive for COVID-19, Gov. Ned Lamont emerged with a scratchy voice in telling reporters that he feels fine. "Look, I feel pretty good," Lamont said on a Zoom call after signing a bill Friday at the governor's mansion in Hartford. "I had really no symptoms yesterday to speak of. Today, my voice is a little edgy. I'm going to take a good, long weekend here and relax, and I think I'll be fine early next week." Asked if he would seek medical help, Lamont said, "I'm going to see. ... Today, you can hear in the voice, so I may take a look at those treatments, yes." By the nature of his position and busy schedule, Lamont routinely comes into contact

with staff members, legislators, and relative strangers. "I see a helluva lot of people," Lamont told reporters. "I do the rapid test myself a couple times a week. I do the PCR test a couple times a week, and maybe even more if I've been at a big event. I just went to the basketball game, for example. I would say that's a big event, so I tested every day thereafter." Lamont was referring to a trip to Minneapolis to the Final Four to see the University of Connecticut women's basketball team Sunday night against South Carolina in the national championship game. "We saw hundreds of people out at the basketball game," Lamont said. "I'm afraid there is community spread right now, especially here in the Northeast,"

Turn to **Lamont**, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Investigation into whale’s death finds issues at Mystic Aquarium

Pat Eaton-Robb
Associated Press

An inspection by the U.S. Department of Agriculture after the death of a beluga whale at Mystic Aquarium last summer found problems with the care of that particular whale and others transferred from a facility in Canada.

The report from the department’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service stems from an inspection done in September, after the Aug. 6 death of a 5-year-old male whale named Havoc.

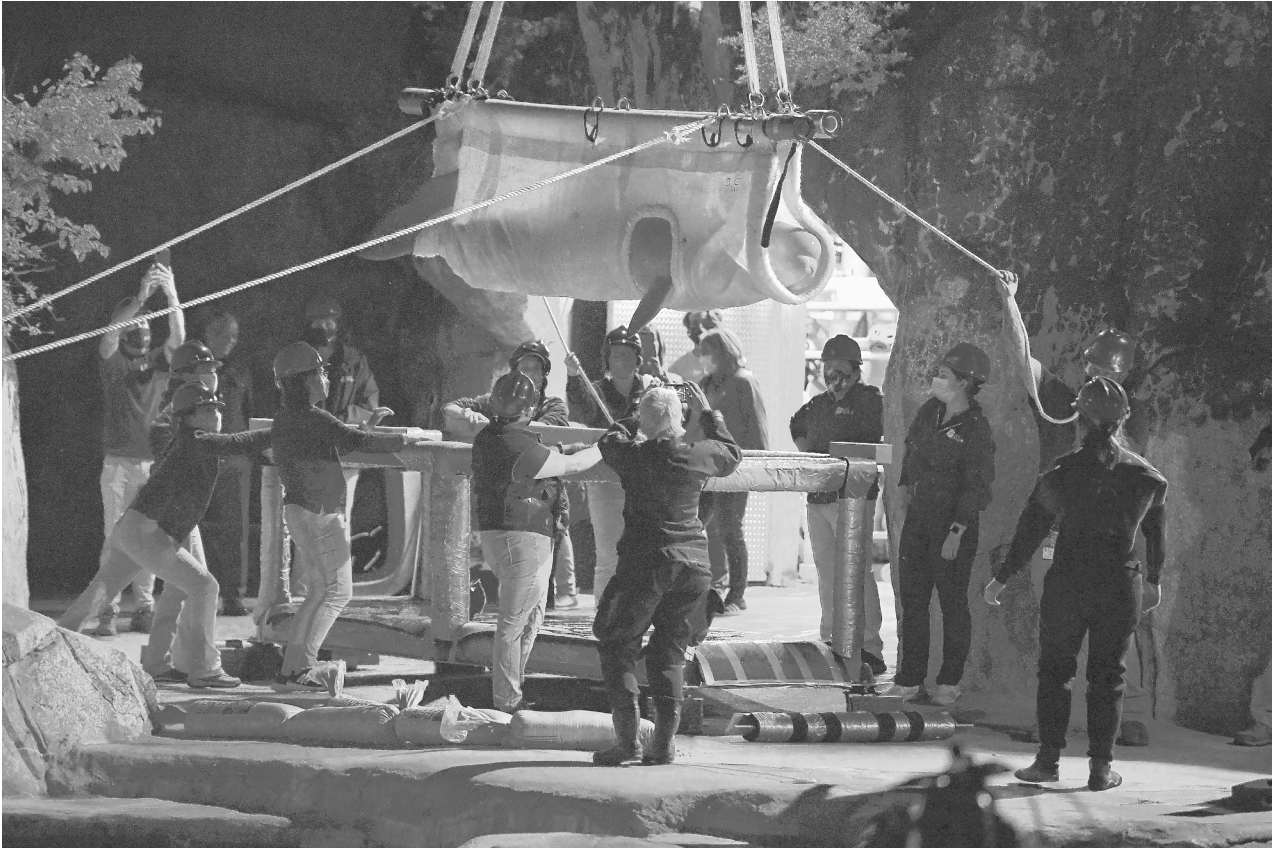
He was among five whales transferred last spring from a facility in Canada to Mystic, which specializes in beluga research.

A second whale, a female named Havana, died at the aquarium in February.

The report on Havoc’s death, which is dated Feb. 7 but released last week, found that Mystic failed to provide adequate veterinary care during the final eight hours of his life.

It noted that staff observed odd behavior in the whale, including frequent rolling in the water and other signs of distress.

“Although staff members were recording their observations of Havok’s behaviors, the veterinarian was not contacted during this eight-hour timeframe until



A beluga whale is transported at Mystic Aquarium after arriving from Canada on May 14. An inspection by the U.S. Department of Agriculture after the death of a beluga whale at the aquarium last summer found problems with the care of that whale and others transferred from a facility in Canada. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

Havok’s death at 0550 hours,” according to the report.

The report also found that Havoc, who had vision problems, had been injured twice in June, once by ramming himself into a gate while a worker used a net to try and retrieve a foreign object that

fell into his tank. He also was wounded by striking posts in the aquarium’s medical pool, it said.

“The handling of the whales during the response to the foreign object falling into the pool was not done as carefully as possible to ensure the safety of all the

animals, including Havok who had known vision impairment, a history of swimming into habitat walls, and a disposition for being ‘spooked,’ per his behavioral records and previous facility’s medical records,” the report found.

Meagan Seacor, a spokes-

woman for the aquarium, said the issues brought up in the inspection are being addressed.

“While we do not agree with some of the findings, we respect USDA’s feedback and are always working to continuously improve,” she said in a statement. “We

are committed to providing world-class care to all the animals that call Mystic Aquarium home.”

Another USDA inspection, conducted this week, found no issues with the aquarium’s whales, she said.

Meanwhile a preliminary necropsy on Havana has found she had significant lesions in her thoracic cavity and lung congestion that could be the result of infections.

A third whale, Jetta, who became ill in the fall has “made significant improvements and continues to be clinically well,” Seacor said.

Naomi Rose, a marine mammal scientist with the Animal Welfare Institute, said she remains concerned for the welfare of all of Mystic’s transplanted belugas, which she says should not have been brought to the U.S. in the first place.

“There is clearly something going on at Mystic that is not great, that is not top drawer, not world-class care,” she said. “I don’t think removing them is the answer, but something has to be done with better supervision and understanding how these whales, who had preexisting conditions, were allowed into the United States in the first place.”

The whale deaths are also being investigated by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service.

Budget

from Page 1

“The town should exercise restraint with any abatements to big business,” Bachmans said, “and it should look for, in the future, figuring out some ways to do abatements for small businesses, particularly those service providers who should

be buying new trucks but are driving old trucks on the road.”

Resident Richard Witt, who is also a real estate attorney, said he’s seen a trend of older residents selling their homes, because they can’t afford them.

“They can not afford to stay in the town they grew up in. It’s a troubling trend,” he said, adding that the town’s tax

rates could be a sign of bigger trouble.

“The taxes are proving to be the same as exclusionary zoning,” Witt said. “If we’re not careful, the federal government’s going to notice that. It’s becoming a true barrier.”

Per the town’s charter and ordinances, the council must adopt a budget by 65

days prior to the end of the fiscal year, which would fall on April 26.

Residents may force a referendum with a petition signed by 6% of electors, within 25 days of the budget’s adoption, which would force the council to adopt a substitute budget.

For more information, visit westhartfordct.gov.

Lamont

from Page 1

especially here in New England. We’re not as severely hit as New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, and I’m afraid that means we will be. But we have the ability to keep ourselves safe. I’ve been vaccinated and boosted, as you know. I think that keeps you out of the hospital and keeps you away from complications. That’s what’s really important.”

While COVID has affected millions of people, the virus has continued to spread at a time when many believed the pandemic was starting to subside. One of the most high-profile outbreaks came recently among well-known guests who gathered at the Gridiron Club Dinner in Washington, D.C., on April 2.

The attendees who later tested positive included U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, the former Democratic governor of Rhode Island who is a friend of Lamont’s.

Others testing positive were U.S. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, Rep. Adam Schiff of California, press aides to first lady Jill Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, and President Joe Biden’s sister, Valerie. Overall, 37 attendees have tested positive,

but the club president said the club would not reveal the names and allow public officials to make the disclosures themselves.

Some members of Lamont’s staff have been tested twice per week because they have been in close contact with him. By late December 2020, four staff members had already tested positive.

Reiss was the first staffer in mid-November 2020, and a state trooper in Lamont’s security detail tested positive a few days later. Rob Blanchard, Lamont’s deputy spokesman at the time, tested positive in December 2020.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines close contact as being “within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period” that can start two days before the person feels symptoms.

Since the pandemic started, Connecticut has reported 13.8 million tests in a state of about 3.5 million people. Overall, 10,795 people have died in the state from the pandemic. The positivity rate over the past seven days is 5.27%, based on the latest statistics from the Lamont administration on Friday.

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Resign

from Page 1

in grades 7 to 12 admitted to having made a suicide plan, while more than 28% reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more.

Joly later questioned whether the students responding to the survey were telling the truth.

“How do you know they were honest responses?” Joly said at the March meeting. “They were dealing with kids.”

“They could have written anything. That’s what kids do.”

Killingly students, speaking to the state Board of Education on Wednesday, highlighted these comments as particularly hurtful. One student said they made her feel like Joly “had no care in helping the students at Killingly High School.”

Remaining school board



At its Nov. 17 meeting, the Killingly Board of Education voted against holding a vaccination clinic on school grounds after an hour of public comment in opposition to the plan. **FILE**

members will soon choose among candidates nominated by the Killingly Republican Town Committee to fill Joly’s seat. The election could happen as early as Wednesday, Angeli said.

School board members will also vote among themselves to select a new chair. The current vice chair is Norm Ferron.

Christine Rosati Randall, whose 16-year-old son attends Killingly High School, said she hopes Joly’s replacement will be a supporter of the school-based mental health center.

“I just hope they reconsider their initial decision, gather whatever clarifying information they need and get this service in place

for our students as soon as possible,” she said. “Every day that goes by is one more day [students are] not learning, and they’re in crisis.”

Joly did not return a request for comment by the time of publication.

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Treasurer

from Page 1

On the Republican side, state Rep. Harry Arora of Greenwich, a longtime hedge fund manager, is seeking the party’s nomination.

Despite statements by Democratic insiders, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin announced Friday to more than 10,000 followers on Twitter that he would not be entering the race.

“Nope, not interested in running for Treasurer — but thanks for blowing up my phone this morning, @ctcapitolreport!” said Bronin, referring to a well-known political website that had mentioned his name.

Gov. Ned Lamont, a Democratic ally of Wooden, said Friday that he was stunned by Wooden’s decision that came late in the political process with the state party convention scheduled for early May.

“I was taken by surprise. I thought Shawn was all-in,” Lamont told reporters on a Zoom call from the governor’s mansion. “He had a pretty good track record. It was a good-performing fund. He worked really hard to get there, and it’s usually a job that people keep for a while.”

Lamont added, “I take him

at his word. He’s got a kid going to college. He’s a single father. So maybe it was family. Maybe it was money.”

In his announcement, Wooden mentioned that he needed to spend more time with his two young sons, one of whom is headed to college soon, to be followed by his brother.

Lamont said he was not endorsing anyone for treasurer at this point.

“I’m not backing anybody,” Lamont said when asked by the Courant. “I’ve certainly heard from a fair number of people. ... I like to see people who reflect the incredible diversity of this great state. I’ve always said that about my commissioners, and I say the same thing about constitutional officers.”

He added, “I don’t need to weigh in. Let’s hear who the candidates are first of all. Maybe see how things sort out at the convention. Then we can make a determination from there.”

Earlier in his career, Lamont worked closely with the treasurer while serving as chairman of the Investment Advisory Council under Gov. Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.

“I probably shouldn’t say this, which is why everybody takes notes,” Lamont said. “In a lot of states, you’re not

elected. In a lot of states, treasurers are appointed because it’s a very specialized job with a unique skill set. Not necessarily for the person with the biggest name recognition or the best stump speech.”

Rodney Butler, chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation that operates Foxwoods Resort Casino, was mentioned as a candidate, but he downplayed the idea.

“As a friend, I am proud of Shawn for the incredible work he has done for the state of Connecticut, and I am certain his contributions will not end here,” Butler said. “As a former treasurer myself, I am flattered to be mentioned in the company of such a talented pool of public servants as a potential candidate. I continue to be humbled by the opportunities afforded to me by serving the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation as chairman and what we have been able to accomplish. The tribe is my first and foremost priority.”

Wooden oversaw several accomplishments in his office.

In July 2019, he presided over the bidding on an important refinancing of Connecticut state bonds.

A crowd of more than 20 people gathered in the trea-

surer’s conference room in Hartford. For investors, it was like the kickoff of a highly anticipated football game.

What might ordinarily seem arcane and obtuse to the general public was actually an exciting time for those gathered in the room. When the bids came in much better than expected, the crowd burst into applause, like fans cheering a touchdown.

The refinancing of Connecticut general obligation bonds at an interest rate of 1.67% told a much broader story that the state was starting to get back on its feet financially, officials said at the time. Like a mortgage rate, the lower the interest rate for the bonds that the state sells, the less the state will have to pay out over time.

The low bid from the winner, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, and the competitive prices from other financial powerhouses, showed that Wall Street knew that Connecticut was moving in the right direction, Wooden said at the time. He described the winning bid as “incredible” when compared to previous numbers.

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Fishing

from Page 1

The new state law ending the closed season for trout, however, opened waters that had been closed to all fishing to fishing for trout only, creating confusion, Beauchene said.

“Someone could go to Pond X and fish for trout, but nothing else,” he said. “That doesn’t make any sense, so we’re trying to get the regulations to match the statutes.”

Beauchene acknowledged that some people are upset because they built traditions around opening day, but the goal is for people to enjoy recreational fishing year-round.

“The primary goal of these proposed changes is to comply with (the law ending closed season for trout), while simplifying the fishing regulations, allowing anglers to fish for any species in any water, year-round, by removing of all closed seasons from the regulations,” according to a DEEP news release. “DEEP acknowledges the

fact that we are currently in a confusing time as the current regulations and the recently passed public act are not in sync.”

The full proposed regulations are available at portal.ct.gov/DEEPFishing. Copies of these documents are also available by contacting DEEP’s Fisheries Division by phone (860-424-3474) or by email (deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov).

Anglers can find more information on trout stocking online including an interactive trout stocking map (ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps). The mobile friendly application provides the number of days since the last stocking at each of our stocked waters enabling anglers to search for their favorite waterbody, find a new favorite, or look for those that have been stocked most recently.

More information can be found at ct.gov/deep/fishing.

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CONNECTICUT

Cheshire restaurateur Rondos named Small Business Person of the Year

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

The Connecticut branch of the federal Small Business Administration has handed out its annual awards for the state’s most noteworthy entrepreneurs, and taking the top prize of Small Business Person of the Year was Viron Rondos, proprietor of Viron Rondo Osteria, a restaurant in Cheshire. Rondos will compete with other top winners from around the country for the title of national Small Business Person of the Year. Catherine Marx, district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration in Connecticut, said the winner of that competition will be announced at the end of April or beginning of May in conjunction with National Small Business Week, which is the first week of May. Rondos, who founded his



Viron Rondos, proprietor of Viron Rondo Osteria, has won Small Business Person of the year from the Connecticut branch of the federal Small Business Administration. **FILE**

restaurant in 2014, stood out from the crowd because of his actions during the pandemic, Marx said. “Throughout this pandemic he worked very hard to overcome

insurmountable challenges. Many restaurants were forced to close. He pivoted quickly to doing take-out. He has a large outdoor area that he actually expanded in 2019 and 2020. That decision was pivotal for him to survive.” Rondos’ commitment to his employees and his community also put him at the top, Marx said. “He not only was a job creator but he was authentic and genuine, especially giving back during COVID. He immediately had deals for all front-line first responders. He was very passionate about helping his staff, giving them a stipend to eat at the restaurant. He’s involved with the Cheshire food pantry. To do all he does and still have time to give back to the community is exceptional.” Rondos also delivered food to hospitals and donated \$500 a month to the charity Cheshire Lights of Hope.

Rondos credited the community and his workers for his success. “It was a very challenging and very unique time ... something very much unknown to all of us,” he said. “The staff worked really hard. The community was supporting us.” To qualify for an award, entrepreneurs have to have received assistance through SBA Resource Partners and/or use SBA-backed loan programs and COVID relief. “[Rondos] used our lending programs a number of times, such as a 7(a) loan. He used a very critical product we have, a 504 loan, to help with his expansion. Then he also was able to access the PPP loans during COVID,” Marx said. Other prize winners were: ■ Family-Owned Small Business of the Year: Charlie J. Negaro of Atticus Book Store in New Haven ■ Financial Champion: Derek Ezovski of ORMS in West

Hartford ■ Manufacturer of the Year: Mary Ruth Shields of United Sewing & Design in Hartford ■ Microenterprise of the Year: Alexandra Lazowski of Bare Life in West Hartford ■ Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year: Lisa Chatman of Kiddie Tech University in West Haven ■ Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year: William Pastyrnak of Counter Weight Brewing in Cheshire ■ Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year: Candace Freedenberg of Untapped Potential in Hartford ■ New England Regional Women’s Business Center of Excellence: Women’s Business Development Council Central Connecticut in New Haven

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Ichiro Kitchen Express offers ramen, hibachi near CCSU

Location has same principals as Ichiro Hibachi and Sushi in West Hartford Center

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

The newest restaurant in the neighborhood near Central Connecticut State University is an Asian fast-casual place with a familiar-sounding name: Ichiro Kitchen Express, at 1460 East St. in New Britain. Two principals of Ichiro Kitchen Express, Jimmy Zhu and Vincent Ouyang, also are principals in Ichiro Hibachi and Sushi in West Hartford Center. However, the two restaurants are separate business entities. “Ichiro is dine-in. Ichiro Kitchen Express, the setup is different. It has seats, but we focus on takeout,” Ouyang said. Vincent Lee, who works front-of-house, is the third partner at Ichiro Kitchen Express. At Ichiro Kitchen Express, no sushi is on the menu — yet — and Chinese and Thai dishes are sprinkled in among the hibachi, yaki soba, udon, edamame, miso soup and takoyaki balls. Ichiro Kitchen Express also serves ramen. The ramen servings — vegetable (\$11.95), and pork, beef, shrimp or chicken (\$12.95) — are fragrant, generous bowls full of broth, noodles, marinated hard-boiled eggs, fish cakes, onions, carrots and bamboo shoots. “Ramen is the most popular dish so far,” said Lee, who opened the shop in late March. All three partners hail from Fujian, China. Another favorite is the hibachi, which is served with rice, noodles, vegetables and onion soup. Varieties include vegetable (\$10), chicken or shrimp (\$11), steak (\$12) or salmon or scallops (\$14). The hibachi proteins also can be served as a side order, for \$6 to \$8. Bento boxes, with rice, spring rolls and miso soup, come in



Ramen is the most popular dish at the new Ichiro Kitchen Express in New Britain. **SUSAN DUNNE/HARTFORD COURANT**

sesame chicken, sesame beef, General Tso’s chicken and orange chicken (\$14); vegetables with chicken (\$11), beef or shrimp (\$12) or a mix of all proteins (\$14); and teriyaki chicken (\$11), steak or shrimp (\$12) or a mix of all (\$14). Fried rice (\$6 to \$13), hibachi noodle (\$7 to \$14), and pad thai, yaki soba and yaki udon (all \$11 to \$14) come with the option of vegetable, chicken, beef, shrimp or a mix of all.

Appetizers, ranging from \$3 to \$9, include miso or onion soup; salad; edamame; harumaki; shrimp or pork shu mai; pork, vegetable or beef gyoza, calamari, shrimp, crab rangoon or takoyaki octopus balls. The seating area is comfy, with sofas and a TV. Décor is tongue-in-cheek. Posters poke gentle fun at Japanese cultural touchstones, such as Godzilla bathing in ramen; Hokusai’s “The Great

Wave off Kanagawa” reimagined as a bowl of ramen on a rampage; and a crowd of maneki-neko waving cats. Ichiro Kitchen Express, 1460 East St. in New Britain, is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday noon to 10 p.m. Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Man sentenced to 10 years for robberies in multiple towns

Staff report

A 31-year-old Ashford man was sentenced to 10 years in prison for a series of knife-point robberies he committed at convenience and package stores throughout Connecticut, according to state authorities. Kelly Nixon, of Ashford Center Road, was arrested for robberies that occurred in Andover, Chaplin, Manchester, Terryville and Willimantic in 2020, state authorities said in a statement. Nixon was arrested after investigators from the Connecticut State Police, as well as the Manchester and Plymouth police departments, “determined that the robberies were conducted in the same manner and identified a vehicle used by Nixon in the crimes,” state authorities said in the statement. In addition to 10 years in prison, Nixon also was sentenced to serve five years of special parole, authorities said. “The sentencing followed previous court hearings in which Nixon pleaded guilty to multiple charges in connection with the robberies,” the statement said. “The joint effort of the police departments involved in this case provided strong evidence, which led to a successful prosecution of Nixon by our offices,” New Britain State’s Attorney Brian W. Preleski said in the statement. Nixon pleaded guilty to criminal attempt to commit robbery in the first degree at Superior Court in New Britain; pleaded guilty to first-degree robbery at Superior Court in Rockville; and pleaded guilty in Superior Court in Danielson to two counts of second-degree robbery and violation of probation, state authorities said in the statement. At Superior Court in Manchester, Nixon pleaded guilty to third-degree robbery, state authorities said. The cases were prosecuted by Tolland State’s Attorney Matthew C. Gedansky, Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Robert F. Mullins, Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Lou Luba and Deputy Assistant State’s Attorney Mark A. Williams, the statement noted.

Auditors slam state for oversight of school program run by Diamantis

By Andrew Brown
CT Mirror

A newly released report shows state officials mismanaged audits for Connecticut’s school construction program in recent years and failed to enforce price caps that are meant to hold down costs for local school building projects. The 83-page report, which was produced by the state Auditors of Public Accounts, highlights significant flaws in the state’s oversight of the Office of School Construction Grants & Review at a time when that multibillion dollar program is already under federal investigation. The findings echo some of the same issues uncovered by The Connecticut Mirror in its review of 80 audits obtained through a Freedom of Information request. In a story published Wednesday, the Mirror detailed how a dysfunctional system for examining and managing billions of dollars in school construction projects allowed, among other things, the former director of the program to review audits without any oversight. Federal prosecutors subpoenaed Gov. Ned Lamont’s administration last fall for records related to the school grant program and its former director Kostantinos “Kosta” Diamantis. The U.S. Attorneys Office also filed similar requests with at least five municipalities that

undertook school construction projects in recent years. In response, Lamont, a Democrat, has promised significant reforms to the school building program, and he appointed new administrators to run the office, following Diamantis’ removal last October. The new report, however, blamed some of the issues that were uncovered on decisions made by Lamont and other high-ranking officials in his administration. The auditors cited the governor’s decision in 2019 to move the school construction program from the Department of Administrative Services to the Office of Policy and Management, arguing the change placed too much power and authority into the hands of Diamantis, who also served as a deputy secretary at OPM. The move from one agency to another altered the way OSG&R managed the routine audits that are conducted for local school projects once construction is completed, and according to the report, potentially opened those audits up to undue influence. While the school construction office was under DAS oversight, the various audits were provided to the commissioner of that agency, according to the report. But when former OPM Secretary Melissa McCaw transferred the school grant program over to her agency, the

audits were delivered to Diamantis instead of his supervisors. The new report argues that setup was problematic because it potentially exposed the auditing team to pressure from Diamantis and other leaders within the school construction office. “This reorganization resulted in a structural threat to audit independence,” the report explained. “The unit must be free from interference in determining the scope of internal auditing, performing work, and communicating results,” the auditors added. State officials at DAS agreed with those findings, according to the report. And the governor’s office pointed out that many of those flaws have already been resolved by the administration. The governor returned the school construction program to DAS last year following Diamantis’s exit, and his administration recently moved the auditing unit for the school grant program outside OSG&R to make it more independent. The new leadership team Lamont appointed to run the grant program is also in the process of hiring an independent firm to review the school construction audits that were conducted in recent years. “The Lamont administration has taken multiple steps to strengthen the school construction program, and the recent audit findings affirm

those decisions,” Max Reiss, the governor’s spokesperson, said. “In recent months there has been a change in leadership in addition to augmenting accountability efforts in the form of additional independent audits to review previous work,” Reiss said. “Gov. Lamont made these proactive decisions to the benefit of Connecticut residents who rely on the state for their school buildings to be completed in a transparent and comprehensive fashion, in accordance with state law.” Other accounting and oversight issues still need to be corrected, however, state auditors noted. The auditors, for instance, found that Diamantis and other officials who oversaw the school construction office repeatedly failed to enforce price caps that were put in place to control costs for the multibillion dollar program. According to the report, the state’s School Building Project Advisory Council set a maximum price of \$365 per square foot for local school projects starting in 2019. Yet most of the school renovations and new construction projects the auditors reviewed failed to meet that standard. In fact, many of the school building projects that were analyzed by auditors surpassed that threshold, even after the auditors adjusted for inflation. Three other school construction projects that were

reviewed didn’t even have an estimated cost available. State officials are supposed to use those cost calculations to make sure the state doesn’t overpay for local school projects. If a project does go over that preset price, the municipalities are supposed to be on the hook for the extra cost. But the report suggested those rules were not always followed by Diamantis, who had the authority to waive those requirements. “By not enforcing cost limits, school project costs may become excessive, and districts are reimbursed for otherwise ineligible costs,” the auditors wrote. Officials at DAS agreed with that assessment, and the agency informed the auditors that it is currently working to put better price controls in place. The agency’s leadership said they would start by resetting the allowed cost per square foot. They are doing that to better account for the recent surge in construction costs and building materials that swelled during the pandemic. The agency also emphasized that it is in the process of hiring a new director for OSG&R, who would be charged with enforcing those new rules.

Andrew Brown is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (<https://ctmirror.org/>).

LIVING

CELEBRITIES

Stars voice support for Ukraine

From news services

A group of inter-generational stars from film, TV, sports and music — including Bruce Springsteen, Hugh Jackman, Elton John, Jon Bon Jovi, Jonas Brothers and Billie Eilish — have signed up for a social media campaign to show support for Ukraine. The Global Citizen-organized social media rally Friday urges governments, institutions, corporations and individuals to help fund humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and other regions of the world. Celebrities are being asked to use their social media accounts to publicize the effort, using the hashtag #StandUpForUkraine.

Springsteen went to Twitter ahead of Friday’s online rally to show his support: “Refugees in Ukraine and around the world need our help now,” his message read. “Everyone deserves safe and humane living conditions.” Barbra Streisand on Friday tweeted a link to Global Citizen and wrote: “I supported and hope you will too.” The campaign took place a day before a pledging conference Saturday co-hosted by European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Billboard Music Awards announces nominees: The Weeknd is the top finalist at the 2022 Billboard Music Awards for a second year in a row, up for 17 awards, followed by Doja Cat, who is up for 14 awards. Finalists were announced Friday across 62 categories for the awards that measure chart success, streaming, airplay and social engagement. The show will air on NBC and Peacock on May 15 from Las Vegas.



Billie Eilish, clockwise, Luis Fonsi, Bruce Springsteen and Alejandro Sanz are part of a rally to support Ukraine. AP

The Weeknd picked up nods in top artist, top 100 artist and top streaming songs artist and his duet with Ariana Grande on “Save Your Tears (Remix)” is up for six awards. Also nominated for top artist are Doja Cat, Olivia Rodrigo, Taylor Swift and Drake.

Britney Spears refuses to pay \$660K in mom Lynne’s attorney fees: Britney Spears refuses to be mom Lynne’s cash cow any longer as the latter is looking for her daughter to cover attorney fees connected to the pop star’s conservatorship battle, according to an opposition filed Tuesday by Britney Spears and obtained by E! News. The petition for Spears, 40, to cover \$660,000 in fees was filed in November when her mother wanted to see what the firm she hired in 2019, Jones Swanson Huddell & Garrison LLC, “could do to get

involved to help Britney free herself from what she saw as a very controlling existence,” the documents show. Lynne’s petition has “no authority at all to support the conclusion that a conservatorship estate can be held financially responsible for the attorney’s fees of a third party,” which she would be considered, according to those new documents. Spears’ conservatorship was finally terminated in November after nearly 13 years.

April 9 birthdays: Actor Michael Learned is 83. Actor Dennis Quaid is 68. TV host Joe Scarborough is 59. Actor Cynthia Nixon is 56. Actor Keshia Knight Pulliam is 43. Actor Jesse McCartney is 35. Singer Jazmine Sullivan is 35. Actor Kristen Stewart is 32. Actor Elle Fanning is 24. Musician Lil Nas X is 23. Singer Jackie Evancho is 22.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Hookups lead to friendship, then ghosting

Dear Amy: Through some unusual circumstances, I met another man about seven and a half years ago. We first met for a sexual encounter and soon became lovers. And then we became good friends. We are both well into our elder years, and are regularly tested, so we know each other’s health.

Prior to our meeting, his husband as well as my wife had long since lost interest in sex, so sex was the initial attraction for both of us. We live in different cities, but manage to see one another several times a year. Sometimes we may only meet for lunch or supper and just talk — hours and hours of talk. Other times we have the opportunity to be intimate with one another. We share our thoughts, our dreams, family issues, concerns, etc. The last few months his communications have slowed down. At this point, I have not heard from him in a few weeks. No explanation, no messages, no nothing. I guess that is what is called “ghosting”? My question is this: I feel like I at least need some sort of closure. I will be in his city in a few weeks. Should I try again to make contact with him so I can have a sense of closure? How might be the best way, and how persistent should I be? Or should I just let it go? — *Ghosted*

Dear Ghosted: Yes, you should contact him. Ask, perhaps by text: “Could you get back to me, just to let me know if you’re OK? Of course, I miss hearing from you, but at this point I’m just looking for an

explanation for why you haven’t been in touch, and I’ve started to worry. I’ll be in town soon, in case you want to meet in person.” After this effort, yes, I think you need to just let it go. And ... this is not on-topic, but I hope your wife has also been tested for STDs.

Dear Amy: I don’t think I’ve ever seen this subject addressed. This could be an issue that a straight person or gay person has encountered. (I happen to be gay.) My ex died suddenly a few years ago from a tear in one of the chambers of his heart. He was 53. After our split (due to infidelity on his part), we were able to put our acrimony toward each other aside and move on as friends. He even attended my wedding to my current husband. When he died, I was devastated. The grief was pretty intense. People around me were acting like... “If you were just friends, then why are you taking this so hard?” My husband tried to be understanding, but I got the idea that he didn’t really understand. Believe me — at that point I had no romantic interest in my ex. Did I overreact? — *Wounded Ex in the Midwest*

Dear Wounded: The indelible line from John Donne’s poem “No Man is an Island” immediately comes to mind (as it so often does, lately): “... any man’s death diminishes me, For I am involved in mankind.” Continuing to piggyback

on this poem, I’ll tell you “for whom the bell tolls”: The bell tolls for you, and for every grieving person. A friend of mine recently described the impact of the loss of friends as being like having holes blasted through your life. You shared your life with your ex, and after your breakup, you continued on in friendship. Of course, you mourn this loss! There is no shortcut through grief, and there is no need to justify how you feel, the way you feel or ... that you feel such intense grief after the death of a friend.

Dear Amy: Regarding your recent “Best of” column concerning adoption (from “Distressed Sister”), we have three children: one bio and two adopted. When we brought our second child home (three weeks old!), we were told by our social worker to tell him about the day he was adopted and to tell him frequently. Obviously, a three-week old infant does not understand adoption, but the point was that we’d get very comfortable telling him his adoption story and be open to any questions he had as he grew up. So, the right age for a child to learn her/his adoption story is the day you bring your child home. — *Susan E*

Dear Susan: This is stellar advice, which I hope all adoptive parents will follow. Copyright 2022 by Amy Dickinson Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Documentary details making of Wiz Khalifa’s debut album

By Scott Mervis
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

We think of Wiz Khalifa as someone who makes a lot, a lot of music, and does it quickly and almost effortlessly. But in “Still Rolling Papers,” the inaugural documentary from HipHopDX, he provides some insight into the making of “Rolling Papers,” his debut album for Atlantic Records. “They put me in the studio with Stargate, and that’s when I started writing the songs,” he says. “My initial thought was like, ‘I’m only recording the songs for the album, and I’m going to record a hook today, and I’m gonna record a verse tomorrow, and I’m gonna record a bridge in three months.’ So, they hated me, dog. They were like, ‘Put the album together, dog, pleasee. We want to hear a complete song.’ I was like, ‘Nah, I’m taking my (expletive) time.” He did just that, and “Rolling Papers,” released on March 29, 2011, was a double-platinum, nearly chart-topping smash that launched the Pittsburgh rapper toward the superstardom he has enjoyed for the past decade. “Still Rolling Papers,” a 30-minute documentary available for free on YouTube, takes us back a few years before that, to the Hazelwood neighborhood, where the teenage Wiz is with his boys, eating chicken and talking about trying to get into a club. People like Chevy Woods, his future hype man, and Sledgren, a fave producer, recall seeing the potential early on in the tall, lanky kid wearing Chuck Taylors. “Somehow, I became the face of what was going on,” Khalifa says. Producer E. Dan, who recorded Khalifa’s first



Rapper Wiz Khalifa is the subject of the documentary “Still Rolling Papers.” FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY 2020

music at his ID Labs, tells director Jeremy Hecht, “We had that feeling that what we were doing was going to be heard by the world.” Of course, the Taylor Gang, managed by Will Dzombak, took lots of video those days, so there’s no shortage of candid backstage video and live clips. There’s so much weed throughout, you can almost get a contact high just watching it. When he came up with “Black and Yellow,” a song about his car, which he got because it repped the colors of the Steelers and his hometown, Khalifa says, “People in Pittsburgh didn’t think it was gonna be the jam.” Atlantic didn’t either. A label marketing rep remembers thinking, “No one cares about your town, sir.” They were all wrong. With a joyful neighborhood video of them bouncing on the Dairy Mart and the Steelers taking a run to the Super Bowl, “Black and Yellow” was gonna be big. The song came out in September 2010, debuting

at No. 100 on the charts, and in February 2011, it was his first No. 1 single. Khalifa says he knew he’d made it when he was on the cover of Rolling Stone. It also helped to get the blessing of Snoop Dogg, the rap legend and Pittsburgh Steelers fan who jumped onto a remix of “Black and Yellow.” “Wiz Khalifa, to me,” he says in the documentary, “is the rebirth of Snoop Dogg.” When he heard Khalifa’s sound, he says, “I could smell the herbs and spices all over it.” In a statement, Sharath Cheria, CEO of HipHopDX, explained, “HipHopDX was founded over 20 years ago with the goal of telling our audience about the stories that matter. So, when it comes to the last decade in music, one of the most inspiring journeys is that of Wiz Khalifa and Taylor Gang. At its core, this documentary is about remaining authentic to who you are, persevering through obstacles and showing everyone that the impossible is possible.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You might have to make a choice! Your head could be asking you to go in an uncharted direction, while your heart may implore you to stick with what’s familiar. Choose a balance between honoring who you were and allowing yourself to grow.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Others may give you an opportunity to speak your mind. You can’t control how your message is received — but you can choose the words that best represent your feelings. The people around you may try and get a rise out of you, but do your best to stay composed.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): It’s time to get out in front of your ego. It might be easy to tell others that your life is going great, but you might stretch the truth to make yourself look better. Before you commit to ten errands to try to look responsible, remind yourself that your genuine response is the right one.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Today you can tap into your raw emotions. You’re in touch with your feelings, but you may unintentionally rationalize them. Your thoughts could transfer to someone else, but taking out your feelings on one person to avoid expressing them to the true source won’t help you to grow.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Fear can clash with logic. You know that you have the talent and desire to make things happen, so ask yourself — what’s really holding you back? Other people are bringing what they have to the table with more confidence and less knowledge than you, so be your own cheerleader, not your critic.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone could sell you a dream now — but it’ll be easier said than done. No matter how good it sounds, you can’t be certain what’s actually going to be delivered. It likely isn’t going to live up to what they’re promising you, but the experience itself might be worth it for the story!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): What you say today can have an impact on your image. Gossiping could be especially explosive now. Saying something behind a friend’s back could come back to haunt you, so make sure that you’re ready to stand behind whatever you’re putting out into the universe.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Curiosity could lead you to shocking information. While much of the day’s energy encourages you to have fun, you may have to grapple with a unexpected knowledge. Whether you sought this out or someone brought it to you, trust your instincts and do what you feel is best.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Others may rain on your parade. Someone may dampen your spirits after they hear you talking about your goals. It can be hard to admit that an idea that you felt confident about now needs to be revisited. However, it’s best to swallow your pride and allow their criticism to be constructive.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your cool demeanor may give way to emotional mannerisms. Others could be aware of your emotions. Even if you’re trying not to let anything show, your body language can give away your heart. You don’t have to explain, but there’s no problem with letting yourself be more sensitive.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Words said too quickly can hurt a lot now. Someone may speak bluntly, inciting you to rethink times when you’ve let people run over you. When your sacrifices and work in any kind of relationship go unrecognized, it can be painful. Still, you’re now in control of your own boundaries.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Fantastical things are achievable, even when others aren’t encouraging. Your outlook on life doesn’t need to be taken personally by other people. If someone tries to change you, you don’t have to listen. Instead of sinking to meet other people, make your own choices.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On April 9, 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

In 1942, during World War II, some 75,000 Philippine

and American defenders on Bataan surrendered to Japanese troops, who forced the prisoners into what became known as the Bataan Death March; thousands died or were killed en route.

In 1959, architect Frank Lloyd Wright, 91, died.

In 2003, Iraqis celebrated the collapse of Saddam Hussein’s regime, behead-

ing a toppled statue of their longtime ruler in downtown Baghdad.

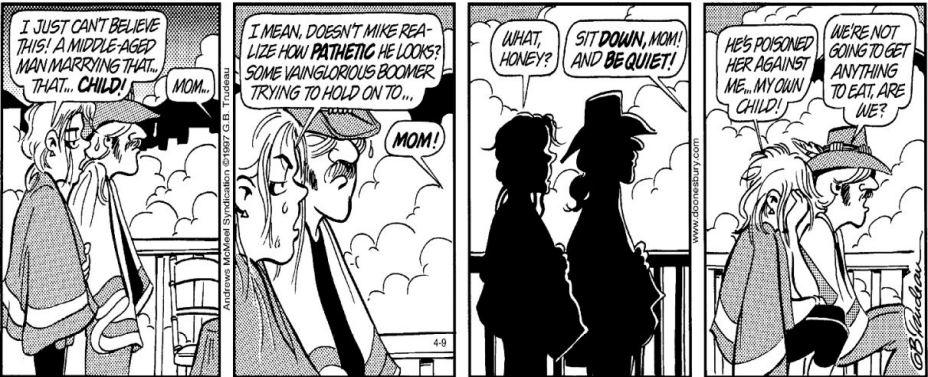
In 2010, Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced his retirement.

In 2020, the Food and Drug Administration sent a warning letter to conspiracy theorist and radio host Alex Jones telling him to stop pitching bogus remedies for the coronavirus.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



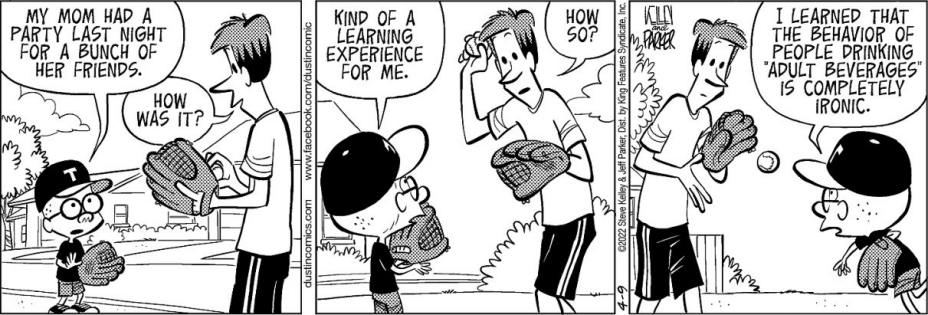
Garfield By Jim Davis



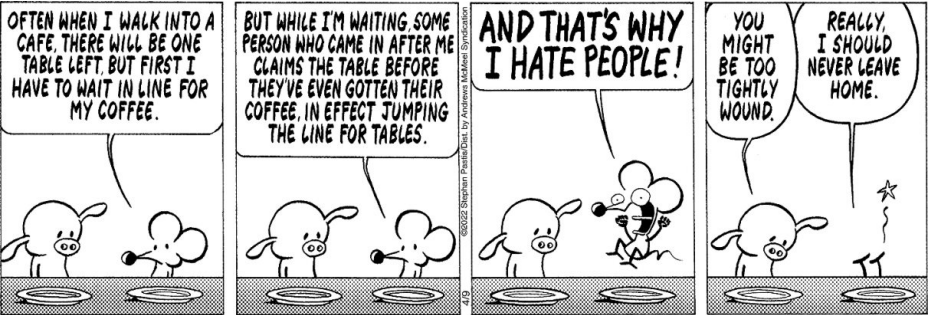
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



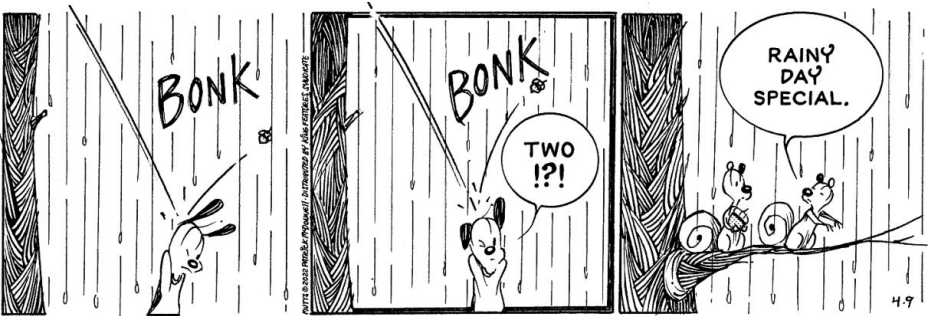
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



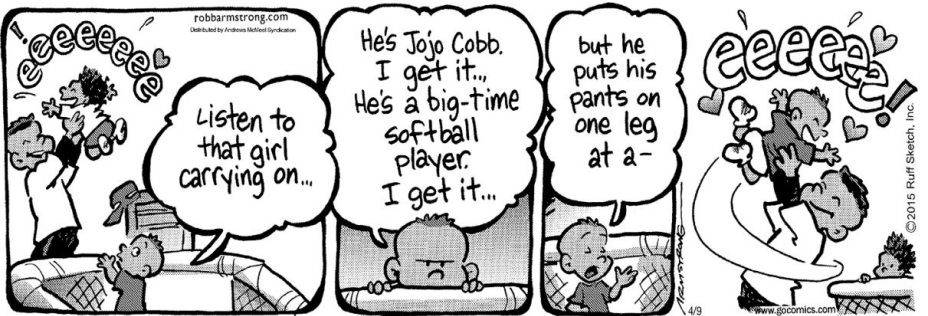
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



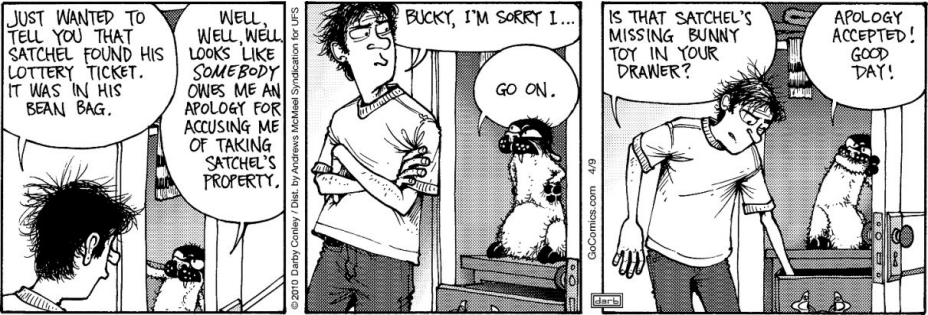
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



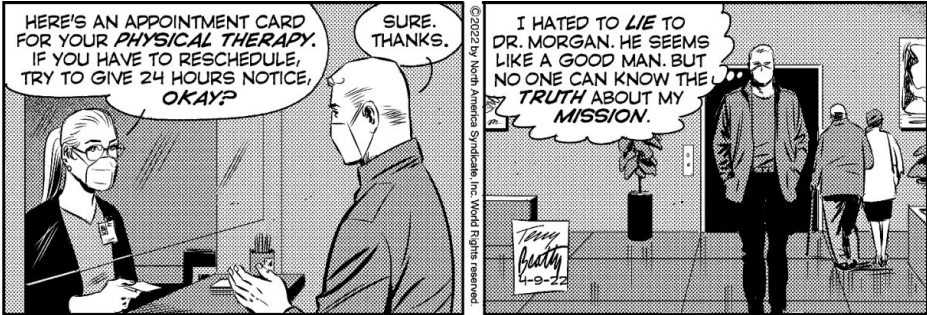
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



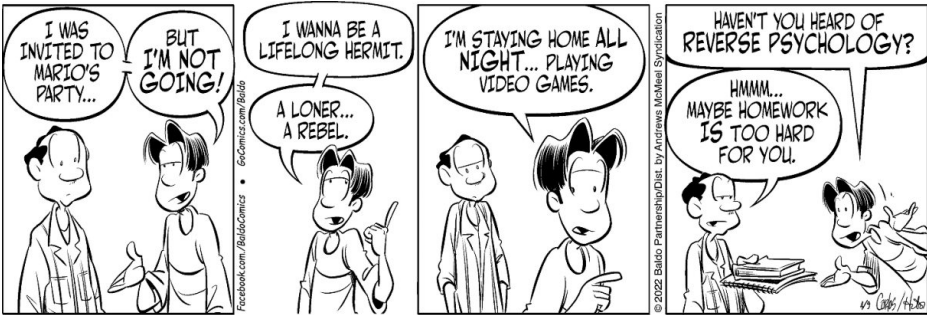
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



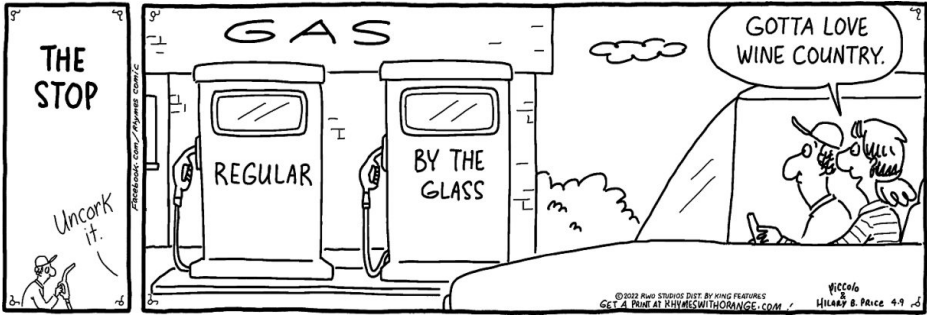
Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



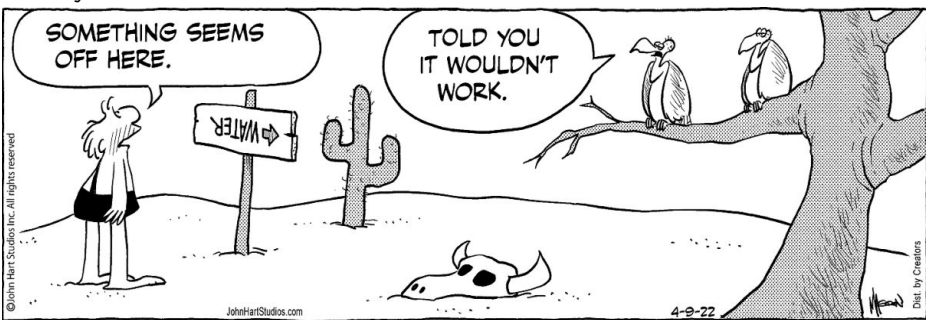
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse



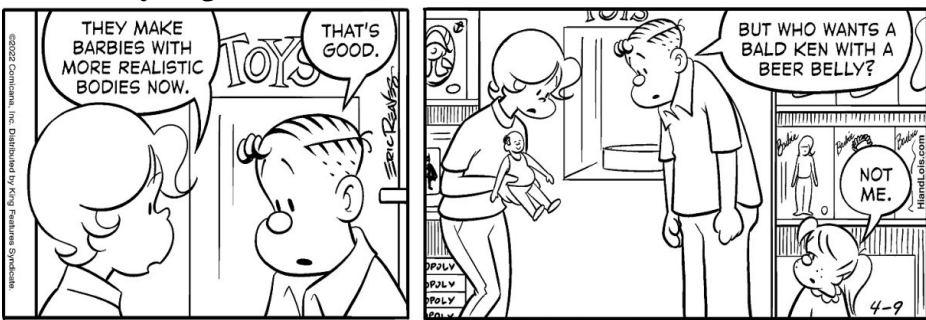
B.C. By Hart



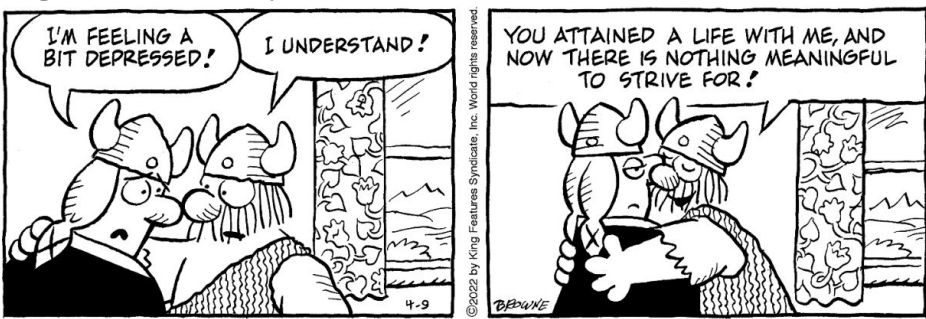
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



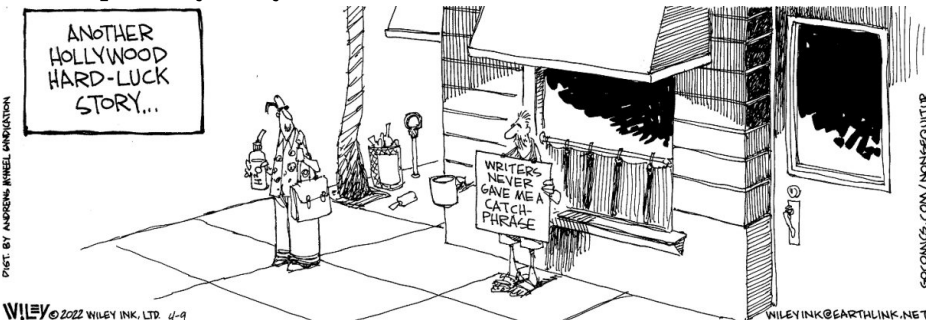
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



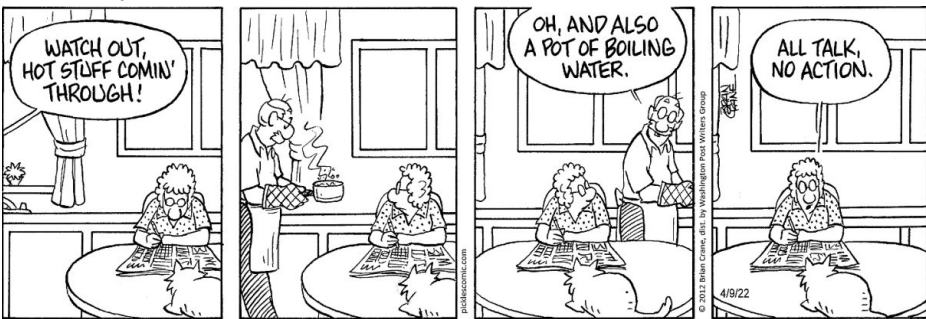
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



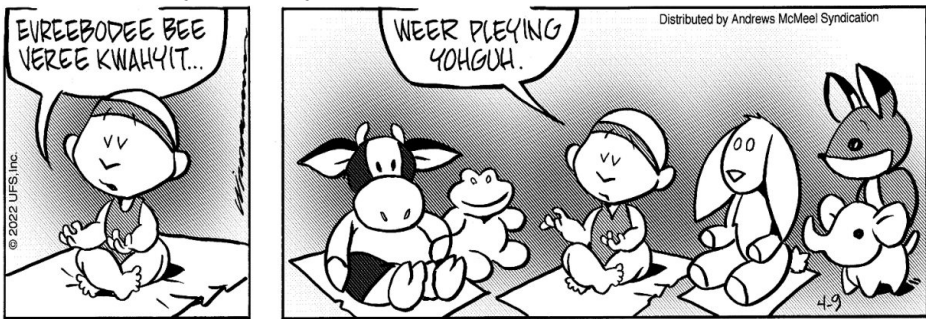
Pickles By Brian Crane



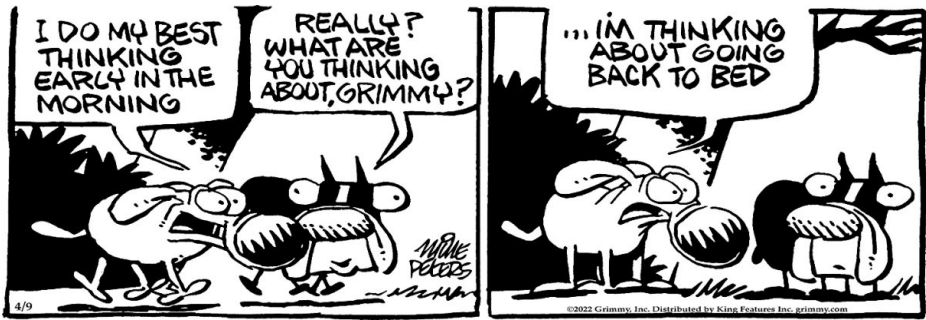
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



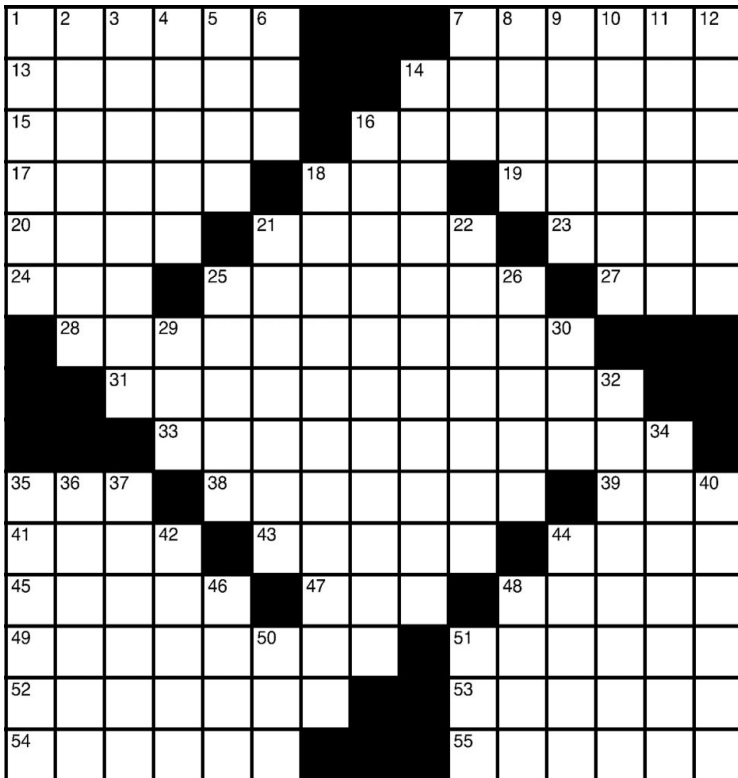
CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- Across**
- 1 Destroy
 - 7 Editor of "The Hugo Winners" anthology series
 - 13 Bee stinging treatment, perhaps
 - 14 Ricotta-stuffed pastry
 - 15 Big game places
 - 16 Decor style associated with hobo bags
 - 17 Soft drink size
 - 18 Cousin of org
 - 19 Tropical fruit tree
 - 20 Home of Warhol's "Campbell's Soup Cans," briefly
 - 21 "Hot House" Grammy-winning pianist
 - 23 Driver of a converted bus, maybe
 - 24 Eastern horrific
 - 25 Mercury's had wings
 - 27 Floundering sounds
 - 28 Code of concern to users
 - 31 Gothic fiction outgrowth
 - 33 Beverage rebranded to include "Zero Sugar" in its name in 2020
 - 35 President whose nickname originated in childhood
 - 38 Open-bodied truck
 - 39 Barbecue flavoring
 - 41 Beer flavoring
 - 43 Whitewater principal
 - 44 Catnap
 - 45 En este momento
 - 47 "Who am I judge?"
 - 48 Pie not served for dessert
 - 49 Java serving
 - 51 Winter airs
 - 52 Obsolescent club usually replaced by a fairway wood
 - 53 Member of a noted octet
 - 54 Serviceman?
 - 55 Break
 - 3 Former Asian communist coalition
 - 4 Sleep woe
 - 5 Paraphernalia
 - 6 Northern frontiers?
 - 7 "Finally I can relax!"
 - 8 Neck, in Newcastle
 - 9 Provoke
 - 10 Northwestern Arizona county
 - 11 "Last Week Tonight" host John
 - 12 Parish priests
 - 14 "Bring it on, dude!"
 - 16 Locale with special regard for customs?
 - 18 Implicit meaning
 - 21 Library array
 - 22 Done
 - 25 Character-building aid?
 - 26 Bookmarked, in effect
 - 29 "Dracula" (1931) director Browning
 - 30 Carry the day
 - 32 Multicountry union using the same currency
 - 34 Daily newspaper entertainment
 - 35 Friday revelation?
 - 36 Islands bigwig
 - 37 Romeo or Juliet, marriage-wise
 - 40 Rhinos and hippos
 - 42 Nice crowd
 - 44 1933 physics Nobel laureate Paul Dirac
 - 46 Curly hairdo
 - 48 Lose color
 - 50 Hamm of "Mad Men"
 - 51 EMT proficiency

Down

- 1 Kingdoms
- 2 Valid independent of experience



By John Hawksley

Tribune Content Agency 4/9/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ A Q 5 3
♦ 6 2
♣ A 10 4

WEST
♠ J 10 4 2
♥ 10 8 7 4
♦ 9 5 4
♣ K Q

EAST
♠ 8
♥ J 9
♦ Q 10 8 7
♣ 9 8 7 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 6
♥ K 6 2
♦ A K J 3
♣ J 3

The bidding:
South 2 NT West Pass North 3 ♣ East Pass
3 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Opening lead — king of clubs.

Now you see it, now you don't

One of the great things about bridge is that you can sometimes accomplish the seemingly impossible.

For example, consider the present case where South is declarer at six spades.

If you look at all four hands, it seems certain that the slam will fail. Declarer has a sure trump loser, owing to the 4-1 trump division, and appears to have an inescapable club loser.

But appearances can be deceiving, and if South plays correctly, the slam can be made. Moreover, he does not have to do anything fancy. He just does what comes naturally.

Declarer wins the club lead with the ace and cashes the A-K of trump. After East shows out, South continues with the queen of trump and then plays the A-K-Q of hearts, hoping for a 3-3 division. When this possibility does not materialize, declarer

next leads a diamond from dummy and successfully finesses the jack.

He then cashes the A-K of diamonds, discarding a club from dummy, to reach this position:

North
♠ 9
♥ 5
♣ 10

West
♠ J
♥ 10
♣ Q

East
♦ Q
♣ 9 8

South
♠ 6
♥ 3
♣ J

South now leads the three of diamonds, and West is helpless. Whatever he does, the only trick he can score is the jack of trump.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CENUL
GINVE
AMPIRI
CAUNNE

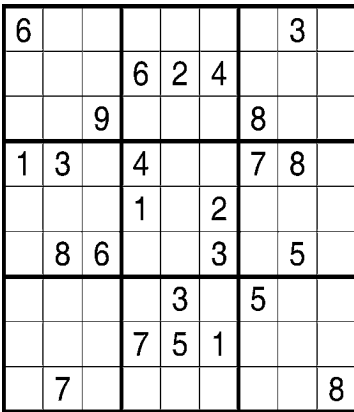
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Ans. here: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: OLDER TULIP AFRAID FOURTH Answer: Successfully making a triple play in baseball requires — ALL-OUT EFFORT

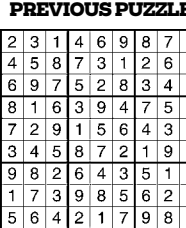


TODAY'S SUDOKU

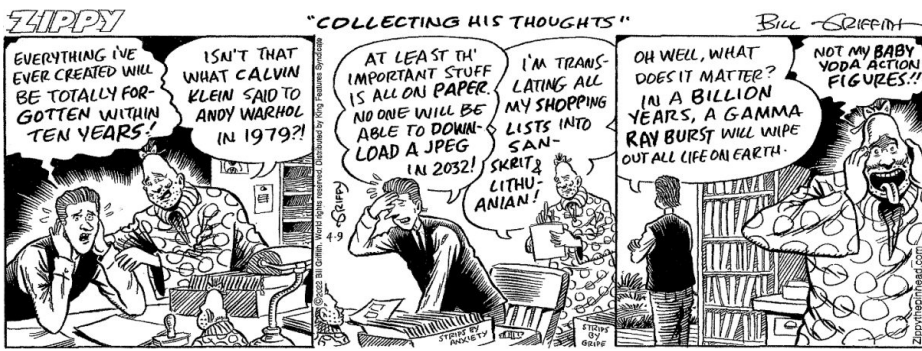


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Motoring
Inside

Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

GOLF THE MASTERS

Scheffler builds 5-shot lead; Tiger makes the cut

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The wind roaring through the Georgia pines gave Tiger Woods and so many others all they could handle Friday at the Masters.

And then Scottie Scheffler made it feel even tougher.

In his debut as the new No. 1 player in the world, Scheffler looked the part. He was bogey-free over the final 15 holes for a 5-under 67, tying the Masters record by building a five-shot lead going into the weekend.

Only four other players in Masters history have led by five shots after 36 holes, most recently Jordan Spieth in 2015. All of them went on to win.

“I put myself in position where I’m in position to win this golf tournament. I couldn’t ask for

anything more after 36 holes,” Scheffler said. “My game feels like it’s in a good spot. I’ve just got to keep doing what I’m doing and not overthink things.”

Scheffler, 25, has won three of his last five starts on the PGA Tour and doesn’t appear to be overwhelmed by the stage of Augusta National.

He was at 8-under 136, five shots clear of defending champion Hideki Matsuyama (69), former champion Charl Schwartzel (69), former British Open champion Shane Lowry (68) and 18-hole leader Sungjae Im (74).

Woods was nine shots behind, a daunting task even on two good legs.

Despite four bogeys after five holes, Woods patched together a 74 and made it to the weekend in his first 72-hole event since the November 2020 Masters.

“Hey, I made the cut. I got a chance going into the weekend,” Woods said. “I think it’s going to be the golf course that Augusta National wants. It’s going to be quicker, drier, faster. It’s going to be a great test.”

Former Masters champion Dustin Johnson (73) led a group at 2-under 142, while the bunch another shot behind included two-time major champion Collin Morikawa and former PGA champion Justin Thomas, whose 67 matched Scheffler for low round of the day.

Two hours after the start of a glorious and calm spring day in Augusta, the wind arrived with a blast and players held on for dear life. Scheffler could see sand blow out of the bunkers. Flags were ripping. Scores were soaring.

Turn to Masters, Page 4

MASTERS ROUND 2 AT A GLANCE

- **Leading:** Scottie Scheffler, ranked No. 1 in the world, shot a 5-under 67 and is at 8 under.
- **Hanging around:** Tiger Woods made the cut at the Masters in his first competitive event since the 2020 Masters. Woods shook off a rough start for a 2-over 74. He is at 1 over, tied for 19th.
- **Shot of the day:** Stewart Cink’s 8-iron at the 170-yard par-3 16th landed in the middle of the green, found the slope and funneled into the hole for an ace.

LEADERBOARD			
Scottie Scheffler	69-67—136	-8	
Hideki Matsuyama	72-69—141	-3	
Shane Lowry	73-68—141	-3	
Sungjae Im >	67-74—141	-3	
Charl Schwartzel	72-69—141	-3	

Complete results, Page 5



ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY

YANKEES 6, RED SOX 5 (11)

Giving a little extra



The Yankees’ Josh Donaldson, center, celebrates with teammates after hitting a walk-off single in the 11th inning in an opening day victory over the Red Sox in New York. **JOHN MINCHILLO/AP**



Yankees shortstop Isiah Kiner-Falefa, who started the 11th inning at second base, scores the winning run against the Red Sox on a single by Donaldson. **JOHNNY MILANO/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Donaldson lifts Yankees to opening win over Red Sox in 11th

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fans packed Yankee Stadium, and red, white and blue bunting was out on a sun-splashed afternoon, just like opening days before the pandemic.

Shadows had crawled across the infield by the time Josh Donaldson capped his New York debut with a performance reminiscent of the Yankees of old — their first walk-off win on opening day since Yogi Berra charged across the plate on Andy Carey’s single to beat the Washington Senators in 1957.

“The energy in the stadium, the atmosphere was pretty electric,” Donaldson said Friday after

his 11th-inning single lifted the Yankees over the Boston Red Sox 6-5. “It doesn’t get any bigger than this right here.”

Donaldson, the 2015 AL MVP with Toronto, was acquired from Minnesota on March 13. He completed a comeback from a 3-0, first-inning deficit, becoming just the third Yankee with a walk-off RBI in his first game after Roy Weatherly in the 1943 opener and Chase Headley in July 2014, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

“It’s amazing for him to come and to get on the good side of this place right away,” teammate Giancarlo Stanton said.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa, also obtained in the Donaldson trade, started the

“The energy in the stadium, the atmosphere was pretty electric. It doesn’t get any bigger than this right here.”

— Josh Donaldson

inning as the automatic runner at second base in the first extra-inning game of the strange rule’s third season.

Donaldson hit a three-hopper up the middle against rookie Kutter Crawford leading off the 11th, just past the dives of new Boston second baseman Trevor Story and shortstop Jonathan Araúz, who took over in the 10th after Xander Bogaerts strained his right

hamstring.

Kiner-Falefa slid across the plate well ahead of center fielder Kiké Hernández’s one-hop throw. Donaldson ran all the way to second and flipped his helmet, then was mobbed by teammates.

“Some people handle it really well; some people not as much,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone

Turn to Yankees, Page 2

YARD GOATS

Pure & simple



Dom Amore

Baseball begins again at Dunkin’ Donuts Park, ‘a normal season’

HARTFORD — Tim Restall set the lights at Dunkin’ Donuts Park to turn on at 4 a.m., early enough for the local TV stations to set up for their morning live shots.

Restall arrived about 6:30 for his longest, and best day of the year as Yard Goats president. He walked the ballpark, checking every nook and cranny for trouble. He let the early-rising coaches into the clubhouse. “Happy opening day,” he greeted each who crossed his path Friday, and that it was.

“A normal season,” Restall said. “Last year, opening in May was where we were, and obviously 2020 we don’t want to talk about. It’s exciting. April baseball can be tough weather-wise, but today is a great day to be at the ballpark.”

The weather did cooperate for this one, and how sweet it was for the weather to once again be the biggest concern. Not since 2019 has Hartford’s minor league franchise opened a season with normalcy, and looked ahead to baseball, the happy squeals of children, date nights, bizarre food and racing coffee cups — without masks or social distancing. Not that COVID-19 was out of sight or mind, but it was tucked away in the back somewhere.

Far outside the cocoon of minor league baseball, too, was the angst and self-destructive infighting that threatened to derail the major league season. Look around and listen, was there nearly the usual excitement and anticipation for a Red Sox season opener against the Yankees in New York? MLB, in spite of itself, will eventually pull its fans back into the season, but the lack of awareness remains mind-numbing, the latest example the suddenly petty sniping between the Yankees

Turn to Amore, Page 2

Did you know?

According to researchers from Mount Sinai Hospital, pesticides of all kinds can damage the nervous system and result in learning disabilities in children, behavioral problems and possibly chronic diseases like Parkinson’s.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

Celtics: at Grizzlies, Sunday, 7 p.m.; NBA First Round vs. TBD (Game 1), date/time TBD; NBA First Round vs. TBD (Game 2), date/time TBD
Knicks: Raptors, Sunday, 7 p.m.
Nets: Pacers, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; NBA Play-In Round vs. TBD, date/time TBD
Bruins: at Capitals, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; Blues, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Senators, Thursday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Senators, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Hurricanes, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Flyers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Charlotte, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Belleville, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Toronto, Friday, 7 p.m.
Red Sox: at Yankees, Saturday, 4 p.m.; at Yankees, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Tigers, Monday, 5 p.m.
Yankees: Red Sox, Saturday, 4 p.m.; Red Sox, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Blue Jays, Monday, 7 p.m.
Mets: at Nationals, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Nationals, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; at Phillies, Monday, 6:45 p.m.

TV/RADIO

AUTO RACING
8:30 a.m.: Formula E- Round 4. (Live) CBSSN
4 p.m.: NASCAR Whelen Modified Series Virginia is for Racing Lovers 150. (Live) USA
5 p.m.: IMSA Weathertech Sportscar Championship Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach. (Live) USA
7:30 p.m.: NASCAR Cup Series Blue-Emu Maximum Pain Relief 400. (Live) FS1
12:55 a.m.: Formula 1 Racing Australia Grand Prix. (Live) ESPN
BASEBALL
1 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB
4 p.m.: Kentucky at Texas A&M. (Live) SEC
4 p.m.: Red Sox at Yankees. (Live) FS1 NESN
6 p.m.: TCU at Texas. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: Missouri at Tennessee. (Live) SEC
7 p.m.: Mets at Nationals. (Live) SNY
9 p.m.: Oklahoma at Oklahoma State. (Live) ESPN
10 p.m.: Regional Coverage. (Live) MLB
BASKETBALL
Noon: State Champions Invitational Championship. (Live) ESPN2
6 p.m.: Pelicans at Grizzlies. (Live) NBA
8:30 p.m.: Warriors at Spurs. (Live) NBA
BOXING
10 p.m.: Top Rank Boxing. (Live) ESPN
10 p.m.: Erickson Lubin vs. Sebastian Fundora. (Live) SHO
EQUESTRIAN
4:30 p.m.: The Road to the Kentucky Derby. (Live) NBC
FOOTBALL
5 p.m.: Florida State Garnet and Gold Spring Game. (Live) ACC
GOLF
3 p.m.: Masters Third Round. (Live) CBS
HOCKEY
3 p.m.: Capitals at Penguins. (Live) ABC
7 p.m.: Senators at Rangers. (Live) NHL MSG
8 p.m.: NCAA Division I Tournament, Championship. (Live) ESPN2
LACROSSE
Noon: Johns Hopkins at Ohio State. (Live) ESPN
1 p.m.: Loyola (Md.) at Navy. (Live) CBSSN
1 p.m.: Denver at Villanova. (Live) FS1
3:30 p.m.: Colgate at Army. (Live) CBSSN
4 p.m.: North Carolina at Virginia. (Live) ESPN
5 p.m.: NLL Lacrosse New York Riptide at Buffalo Bandits. (Live) ESPN2
SOCCER
7:30 a.m.: Premier League Everton vs Manchester United. (Live) USA
7:55 a.m.: Italian Serie B Como vs AS Cittadella. (Live) FSP
9:30 a.m.: Bundesliga Bayern Munich vs FC Augsburg. (Live) SPRTNET
10 a.m.: Premier League Southampton vs Chelsea. (Live) USA
10:10 a.m.: Italian Serie B Frosinone Calcio vs US Cremonese. (Live) FSP
12:30 p.m.: Premier League Aston Villa vs Tottenham Hotspur. (Live) NBC
1 p.m.: MLS Orlando City SC vs. Chicago Fire FC. (Live) UNI
3 p.m.: MLS New England Revolution at Inter Miami CF. (Live) ESPN
5:30 p.m.: Women's International Friendly United States vs Uzbekistan. (Live) FOX
7:30 p.m.: MLS Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy. (Live) FOX
7:55 p.m.: Mexicano Primera División Toluca vs. Guadalajara. (Live) UNI
9:55 p.m.: Mexicano Primera División América vs. Juarez. (Live) UNI
SOFTBALL
5 p.m.: Alabama at Florida. (Live) ESPN
TENNIS
1:30 p.m.: WTA Charleston Open, Semifinals. (Live) TENNIS

METS

Bassitt gearing up for debut Saturday

By Deesha Thosar
New York Daily News

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Chris Bassitt, after his final spring start last week, expressed both confidence and reassurance in the Mets rotation just days after their top aces sustained injuries. On Saturday, he has the opportunity to back up his words with his arm.

Bassitt is gearing up to make his Mets debut Saturday against the Nationals at Nationals Park. His wife, 2-year-old daughter and parents will be traveling from Ohio to watch Bassitt take the mound for his new team for the first time.

“Of course there are nerves because it’s a new team and you want to put your best foot forward,” Bassitt said Friday. “But

overall, I feel good.”

His last time out, Bassitt allowed four runs in five innings to the Marlins in an April 3 exhibition game. He stretched out to 90 pitches, so he should be able to pitch as long as manager Buck Showalter and the Mets need him to in the third game of a four-game opening series against the Nationals.

Bassitt was a first-time All-Star in 2021, recording a 3.15 ERA and posting the best win-loss percentage (.750) in the American League with a 12-4 record for the Athletics. He’s issued less than one home run per nine innings for each of the last two seasons and will now try to limit the long ball against a new division in the National League.

Mets’ opener extends into Friday

morning: Mark Canha and Starling Marte drove in runs to back five shutout innings from Tylor Megill, and the New York Mets won Showalter’s debut by beating the Nationals 5-1 in Thursday night’s opener, which ended after midnight. Canha and Marte were two of the Mets’ free-agent additions this offseason. Megill is a 6-foot-7 right-hander who reached the majors last June and filled in as the opening day starter for injured Jacob deGrom. Megill allowed three hits and did not walk a batter. Juan Soto produced Washington’s lone run with his 99th career homer. Patrick Corbin gave up two runs in four-plus innings and took the loss.

Alonso shakes it off: The key words for Pete Alonso so far this

season are: bounce back. Just like he did a month ago, after getting T-boned in a horrifying car crash, he returned to work the next day and participated in a full workout with his team. On Thursday, Alonso was drilled by a Mason Thompson pitch that plunked his shoulder and helmet. Friday he returned to the Mets lineup against the Nationals. Alonso sported a swollen and bloody lip after the game, following his 40th career hit by pitch, but he was thrilled that he had all of his teeth. In an Instagram post, Alonso wrote: “Why spend thousands on lip injections when you can get this look for FREE by getting hit in the mouth by a 97 mph fastball?”

Showalter said he believed it was important for the first baseman to get back in the lineup Friday.



Binghamton Rumble Ponies catcher Francisco Álvarez gestures after hitting a double Friday as Hartford Yard Goats infielder Michael Toglia walks by during an opening night baseball game at Dunkin’ Donuts Park in Hartford. PHOTOS BY JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Amore

from Page 1

and their most popular player, Aaron Judge, all over a measly \$100 million or so between offer and demand.

But the return of the Yard Goats to their ballpark, where Kyle Calhoon, the Rembrandt of groundskeepers, had the turf looking perfect, and the old, familiar ushers were eager to shake hands and reunite fannies with seats, this is where baseball can still grab you.

Josh Solomon, who owns the team, arrived in Hartford in the morning, got his hair cut at his favorite downtown spot, went to Max’s for lunch and walked around. He felt the buzz.

“Each year has been better than the last,” he said. “The commitment of the community, both corporate as well as our fan base continues to draw. The area we’re drawing from continues to expand. The product we’re putting on, not only on the field but in the experience, is getting better. That’s the feedback we get. It feels like everyone’s ballpark.”

The Yard Goats couldn’t promise progress outside the ballpark, only that they would show people a good time there in the hopes it would spark development. Outside the right field fence, a large apartment project was going



A young fan calls out to the Hartford Yard Goats during opening night against Binghamton on Friday at Dunkin’ Donuts Park in Hartford.

up, with construction on another to begin nearby this summer.

“It’s happening,” Solomon said. “It shows you that Hartford’s best days are ahead of us.”

Every Yard Goats player will be living downtown, walking distance from the stadium.

If we’ve learned anything these last few years, it’s that little things like a soft summer night at the ballpark can’t be taken for granted. Since the old Rock Cats franchise moved from New Britain to Hartford in 2015, the Goats lost the 2016 home season because the park wasn’t finished, lost the entire 2020 season due to the pandemic, and had a shortened

schedule, starting with limited attendance in ’21.

But the 2022 season started with a sellout of 6,542, including, standing room, for opening night against Binghamton and a healthy outlook for more filled seats once the weather gets warm to stay. The novelty hasn’t worn off; every TV station had just about every one of its personalities at the ballpark at one point or another. It would be interesting to see how the city would react if the Goats, 40 games under .500 last year, won more games than they lost.

There will be exciting young players to watch. For the Yard Goats, eyes are on Ezequiel Tovar,

the 20-year-old shortstop who doubled to left in his first Double A at-bat, slick first baseman Michael Toglia and strapping right fielder Brenton Doyle, who laid out for a diving catch in right. The Yard Goats will remain an affiliate with the Rockies for another 10 years, but the Yankees, Mets and Red Sox will bring their prospects in again. The Mets’ top three were in town with Binghamton. One of them, Brett Baty, homered to kick off the season, and another, Francisco Alvarez, hit a three-run shot. Next week Yankees phenom Anthony Volpe comes in with Somerset.

There will be new rules to argue about. Bigger bases to promote base stealing, a robot strike zone, a pitch clock that will be strictly enforced.

All of these things were missed in 2020, and enjoyed conditionally in ’21. Now the full experience is back, and though all minor league teams took big financial hits along the way through the pandemic, Solomon said the Yard Goats came out the other side all right and will be his business as far as his eyes can see.

“We love it here,” he said. “We have no interest in doing anything else. It’s such a great community, and the support we get is just tremendous and it’s just fun.”

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Yankees

from Page 1

said. “There’s a level of wanting to ingratiate yourself to the new town, new people, new fans, teammates.”

It was the Yankees’ sixth walk-off win in an opener, the team’s first over Boston since 1906.

The Red Sox led 3-0 on Rafael Devers’ two-run homer and J.D. Martinez’s RBI double before Gerrit Cole got a single out, the Yankees ace out of sorts after a lengthy pregame ceremony

disrupted his routine.

Seats were filled with a sell-out crowd of 46,097, COVID-19 protocols were dropped and opening-day festivities returned after two seasons altered by the pandemic.

Ukraine’s flag was raised and its national anthem played before “The Star-Spangled Banner” during ceremonies that included a moment of silence for war victims.

“Festivities got a little away from the schedule,” Cole said.

Anthony Rizzo had a two-run drive in the bottom of the first, and

Stanton tied it at 3 with a leadoff homer in the fourth. Both were off Nathan Eovaldi, who beat Cole in last year’s AL wild-card game.

Alex Verdugo put Boston back ahead 4-3 with an RBI single in the sixth off Clay Holmes through a drawn-in infield, but DJ LeMahieu homered off Garrett Whitlock in the eighth to tie it again.

Bogaerts’s third hit put the Red Sox ahead in the 10th, an RBI single against winner Michael King, the Yankees’ eighth pitcher.

Pinch hitter Gleyber Torres, out of the starting lineup in favor of LeMahieu at second base, tied it

in the bottom half with a sacrifice fly off Ryan Brasier.

“I’m sure today was a really tough day for him,” Boone said. “That’s a tough spot where you’re down 0-and-2, shadows, late, first at-bat of the season, everything on the line.”

Story played his first big league game at second base after 733 at shortstop and went 0 for 5 at the plate in his Red Sox debut.

“It’s intense, and that’s fun,” Story said. “That’s the kind of atmosphere you want to play in. Every pitch counts and that’s the way we’re taking it.”

KNICKS 114, WIZARDS 92

Toppin scores 35 as Knicks roll; Barrett leaves with injury

By Noah Trister
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Obi Toppin scored a career-high 35 points to lead the New York Knicks past the Washington Wizards 114-92 on Friday night.

RJ Barrett scored 14 points for the Knicks before leaving the game with a sprained right knee. His early exit came on a night when a number of key players from both teams didn’t play at all. Both teams are elimi-

nated from playoff contention. New York (36-45) moved a game ahead of Washington (35-46) for 11th place in the Eastern Conference.

The Knicks allowed the game’s first 10 points and shot just 2 of 9 from 3-point range in the first quarter, but they dominated after that. New York was 14 of 30 from long distance the rest of the way.

The Knicks outscored Washington 36-19 in the second quarter to lead 59-50 at halftime.

New York scored the final six

points of the first half on a dunk and then a four-point play by Toppin. Then the Knicks scored the first 13 of the third quarter. Toppin capped the run with two more 3-pointers to make it 72-50.

Rui Hachimura led the Wizards with 21 points. Immanuel Quickley had 23 points and 10 assists for New York.

The Wizards have been without Bradley Beal (left wrist) for more than two months, and Kyle Kuzma (right knee) was out for a 12th

straight game. Kristaps Porzingis (right knee) and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (rest) did not play either.

New York was without Julius Randle (right quadriceps) for a fourth straight game. The Knicks have also been without Nerlens Noel (left foot), Cam Reddish (right shoulder), Derrick Rose (right ankle) and Kemba Walker. Quentin Grimes (right knee) and Mitchell Robinson (non-COVID-19 illness) each missed a second straight game.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
New York	1	0	1.000	—	—	1-0	W-1	1-0	0-0
Tampa Bay	1	0	1.000	—	—	1-0	W-1	1-0	0-0
Toronto	0	0	.000	½	—	0-0	0	0-0	0-0
Baltimore	0	1	.000	1	½	0-1	L-1	0-0	0-1
Boston	0	1	.000	1	½	0-1	L-1	0-0	0-1

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Detroit	1	0	1.000	—	—	1-0	W-1	1-0	0-0
Kansas City	1	0	1.000	—	—	1-0	W-1	1-0	0-0
Chicago	0	1	.000	1	½	0-1	L-1	0-0	0-1
Cleveland	0	1	.000	1	½	0-1	L-1	0-0	0-1
Minnesota	0	1	.000	1	½	0-1	L-1	0-1	0-0

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Houston	1	0	1.000	—	—	1-0	W-1	0-0	1-0
Seattle	1	0	1.000	—	—	1-0	W-1	0-0	1-0
Texas	0	0	.000	½	—	0-0	0	0-0	0-0
Los Angeles	0	1	.000	1	½	0-1	L-1	0-1	0-0
Oakland	0	1	.000	1	½	0-1	L-1	0-0	0-1

BOX SCORES

DETROIT 5 CHICAGO WHITE SOX 4

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Pollock rf	5	1	3	1	1	.600
Robert cf	4	0	2	1	0	.500
Abreu 1b	3	1	0	0	1	.000
Grandal c	3	0	0	0	0	.000
EJimenez lf	4	0	1	1	0	.250
L.Garcia ss	4	0	0	0	1	.000
Harrison 2b	4	0	0	0	0	.000
Vaughn dh	4	1	1	1	0	.250
Burger 3b	3	1	1	0	0	.333
TOTALS	34	4	8	4	3	
Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG

Grossman rf	3	2	1	0	2	.333
Meadows lf	2	2	1	0	0	.500
Baez ss	5	0	2	1	2	.400
Candelario 3b	4	0	1	1	1	.250
Cabrera dh	4	0	1	2	1	.250
1-Reyes pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	---
Schoop 2b	3	0	1	0	0	.333
Baddoo cf	4	0	0	0	1	.000
Torkelson 1b	4	0	0	0	2	.000
Barnhart c	2	0	0	0	1	.000
a-Haase ph-c	2	1	1	1	1	.500
TOTALS	33	5	8	5	11	

Chicago	120	000	001	—	4	8	0
Detroit	000	001	022	—	5	8	0

Two outs when winning run scored. a-struck out for Barnhart in the 8th. 1-run for Cabrera in the 8th. **LOB:** Chicago 6, Detroit 8. **2B:** Burger (1), Robert (1), Pollock (1), Schoop (1). **3B:** Meadows (1). **HR:** Vaughn (1), off Soto; Haase (1), off Hendriks. **RBIs:** EJimenez (1), Pollock (1), Robert (1), Vaughn (1), Candelario (1), Cabrera 2. **2B:** Haase (1), Baez (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 4(L.Garcia, Abreu, EJimenez 2); Detroit 3(Torkelson, Cabrera, Baddoo 2). **RISP:** Chicago 3for 8; Detroit 4for 10. **Runners moved up:** Abreu. **GIDP:** Pollock. **DP:** Chicago 1(L.Garcia, Harrison, Abreu); Detroit 1 (Baez, Schoop, Torkelson).

CHICAGO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Giolito	4	1	0	0	2	6	0.00
Sousa	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Crick, H, 1	½	0	1	1	1	0	27.00
Graveman, H, 1	⅓	1	0	0	0	1	0.00
Bummer, H, 1	⅓	0	2	2	2	1	27.00
Hendriks, L, 0-1, BS, 0-11	4	2	2	0	0	2	18.00

DETROIT	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Rodriguez	4	4	3	3	2	2	6.75
Hutchison	2	2	0	0	0	0	0.00
Lange	1	1	0	0	0	1	0.00
Barnes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Soto, W, 1-0	1	1	1	1	1	0	9.00
Inherited runners-scored:	Graveman 2-1, Hendriks 3-2.						
HBP:	Crick (Grossman), Hendriks (Schoop).						
Umpires:	Home, Marvin Hudson; First, Adrian Johnson; Second, John Tampane; Third, Ryan Blakney. T: 3:30. A: 43,480 (41,083).						

SEATTLE 2, MINNESOTA 1						
Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Frazier 2b	5	0	0	0	0	.000
France 1b	2	1	1	0	1	.500
Winker lf	4	0	2	0	0	.500
Haniger rf	4	1	1	2	1	.250
Suarez 3b	4	0	0	0	3	.000
Kelenic dh	4	0	0	0	2	.000
Rodriguez cf	4	0	0	0	2	.000
Crawford ss	2	0	0	0	1	.000
Raleigh c	2	0	1	0	1	.500
TOTALS	31	2	5	2	11	
Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG

Seattle	200	000	000	—	2	5	0
Minnesota	000	100	000	—	1	4	0

a-singled for Urshela in the 9th. 1-run for Arreaz in the 9th. **LOB:** Seattle 10, Minnesota 6. **HR:** Haniger (1), off Ryan; Urshela (1), off Ray. **RBIs:** Haniger 2 (2), Urshela (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 5(Suarez 2, Frazier, Kelenic 2); Minnesota 1(Correa 2). **RISP:** Seattle 0for 8; Minnesota 0for 4. **Runners moved up:** Haniger. **GIDP:** Haniger, Correa, Urshela. **DP:** Seattle 2(Frazier, France; Frazier, Crawford, France); Minnesota 1(Urshela, Polanco, Franco).

SEATTLE	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Ray, W, 1-0	7	3	1	1	4	5	1.29
Seefeld, H, 1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Steckenrider, S, 1-11	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.00
MINNESOTA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Ryan, L, 0-1	4	2	2	2	4	4	4.50
Duran	2	2	0	0	1	4	0.00
Alcala	1	1	0	0	1	0	0.00
Columbe	2	0	0	0	1	3	0.00
HBP:	Ryan (France), Ray (Kepner).						
WP:	Duran. Umpires: Home, Ron Kulpa; First, Marty Foster; Second, Chris Conroy; Third, Carlos Torres. T: 2:53. A: 35,462(38,544).						

MOST HRS IN SEASON		Hrs	Year
Barry Bonds (36)		73	2001
Mark McGwire (34)		70	1998
Sammy Sosa (29)		66	1998
Mark McGwire (35)		65	1999
Sammy Sosa (32)		64	2001
Sammy Sosa (30)		63	1999
Roger Maris (26)		61	1961
Babe Ruth+ (32)		60	1927
Babe Ruth+ (26)		59	1921
Giancarlo Stanton (27)		59	2017
Jimmie Foxx (24)		58	1932
Hank Greenberg+ (27)		58	1938
Ryan Howard (26)		58	2006
Mark McGwire (33)		58	1997
Luis Gonzalez (33)		57	2001
Alex Rodriguez (26)		57	2002
Ken Griffey Jr. (27)		56	1997
Ken Griffey Jr. (28)		56	1998
Hack Wilson (30)		56	1930
Jose Bautista (29)		54	2010
Ralph Kiner (26)		54	1949
Mickey Mantle (29)		54	1961
David Ortiz (30)		54	2006
Alex Rodriguez (31)		54	2007
Babe Ruth+ (25)		54	1920
Babe Ruth+ (33)		54	1928
Pete Alonso (24)		53	2019
Chris Davis (27)		53	2013
George Foster (28)		52	1977
Aaron Judge (25)		52	2017
Mickey Mantle+ (24)		52	1956
Willie Mays+ (34)		52	1965
Mark McGwire (32)		52	1996
Alex Rodriguez (25)		52	2001
Jim Thome+ (31)		52	2002
Cecil Fielder (26)		51	1990
Andrew Jones (28)		51	2005
Ralph Kiner+ (24)		51	1947
Willie Mays+ (24)		51	1955
Johnny Mize+ (34)		51	1947
Brady Anderson (32)		50	1996
Albert Belle (28)		50	

N.Y. YANKEES 6, BOSTON 5 (11)

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Hernandez cf	4	1	0	0	1	.000
Devers 3b	4	1	1	2	1	.250
Bogaerts ss	5	2	3	1	1	.600
Plawecki c	0	0	0	0	0	---
Martinez dh	5	0	1	1	0	.200
Verdugo lf	5	0	2	1	2	.400
Story 2b	5	0	0	0	1	.000
Dalbec 1b	5	0	1	0	2	.200
Bradley Jr. rf	2	0	0	0	0	.000
a-Arroyo ph-rf	1	0	0	0	1	.000
Vazquez c	3	0	1	0	2	.333
1-Arauz pr-ss	0	1	0	0	0	---
TOTALS	39	5	9	5	11	
New York	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG

Donaldson 3b	6	0	2	1	1	.333
Judge rf	5	1	2	0	1	.400
Rizzo 1b	3	1	1	2	0	.333
Stanton dh	5	1	1	1	4	.200
2-Gonzalez pr-dh	1	0	0	0	0	---
LeMahieu 2b	3	1	1	1	0	.333
Gallo lf	4	0	0	0	3	.000
Hicks cf	4	0	1	0	3	.250
Higashioka c	4	0	1	0	1	.250
b-Torres ph	0	0	0	1	0	---
Trevino c	0	0	0	0	0	---
Kiner-Falefa ss	5	1	0	0	2	.000
TOTALS	39	6	9	6	15	

No outs when winning run scored. a-struck out for Bradley Jr. in the 9th. b-sacrificed for Higashioka in the 10th. 1-run for Vazquez in the 10th. 2-run for Stanton in the 10th. **E:** Eovaldi (1), Bogaerts (1). **LOB:** Boston 7, New York 12. **2B:** Martinez (1), Bogaerts (1). **Judge** (1). **HR:** Devers (1), off Cole; Rizzo (1), off Eovaldi; Stanton (1), off Eovaldi; LeMahieu (1), off Whit-lock. **RBIs:** Devers 2(2), Martinez (1), Verdugo (1), Bogaerts (1), Rizzo 2(2), Stanton (1), LeMahieu (1), Torres (1), Donaldson (1). **SF:** Torres. **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 4(Dalbec 2, Vazquez 2, Martinez); New York 5 (Kiner-Falefa 3, LeMahieu, Stanton). **RISP:** Boston 2for 12; New York 1for 8. **Runners moved up:** Martinez, Gallo. **GIDP:** Hernandez, Martinez. **DP:** New York 3(Donaldson, LeMahieu, Rizzo); LeMahieu, Rizzo; Donaldson, LeMahieu, Rizzo).

BOSTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Eovaldi	5	5	3	3	1	7	5.40
Whitlock, BS, 0-1	2½	2	1	0	4	3	8.66
Strahm	⅓	0	0	0	1	1	0.00
Robles	1	0	0	0	1	2	0.00
Diekman, H, 1	⅓	0	1	0	1	0	0.00
Brasier, BS, 0-1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.00
Crawford, L, 0-1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.00
NEW YORK	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Cole	4	4	3	3	1	3	6.75
Green	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.00
Holmes	⅓	3	1	1	0	0	13.50
Castro	⅓	0	0	0	1	1	0.00
Diekman, H, 1	⅓	0	1	0	1	0	0.00
Peralta	⅓	0	0	0	1	1	0.00
Chapman	1	0	0	0	2	3	0.00
King, W, 1-0	2	1	0	1	1	3	0.00
Inherited runners-scored:	Brasier 3-1, Castro 2-0. IBB: off Robles (Rizzo), off King (Devers), off Diekman (Hicks).						
HBP:	Cole (Vazquez), Eovaldi (Rizzo), Diekman (LeMahieu).						
Umpires:	Home, Laz Diaz; First, Brian O'Nor; Second, Tripp Gibson; Third, Chad Fairchild. T: 3:56. A: 46,097(47,309).						

L.A. DODGERS 5, COLORADO 3						
Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Betts rf	5	1	1	1	2	.200
Freeman 1b	3	1	1	0	2	.333
T.Turner ss	5	0	1	1	2	.200
J.Turner dh	5	0	0	0	2	.000
Muncy 3b	5	0	1	0	1	.200
Smith c	3	1	1	0	1	.333
Taylor lf	4	1	2	0	1	.500
Bellinger cf	4	0	0	0	0	.000
Lux 2b	2	1	1	2	0	.500
TOTALS	36	5	8	4	11	
Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Blackmon rf	5	0	1	1	2	.200
Bryant lf	4	0	1	0	1	.250
Rodriguez 2b	4	0	0	0	2	.000
Cron 1b	4	0	1	0	1	.250
McMahon 3b	4	1	1	0	3	.250
Joe dh	3	1	1	0	1	.333
Grichuk cf	3	0	0	1	0	.000
Diaz c	4	1	1	0	0	.250
Iglesias ss	4	0	1	1	2	.250
TOTALS	35	3	7	3	12	

Masters

from Page 1

“Felt like I went 10 rounds with Canelo,” Sergio Garcia said of champion fighter Canelo Alvarez. That was after a hard-earned 74.

Jordan Spieth hit two into Rae’s Creek and took triple bogey on the par-3 12th. At least this was on a Friday, though he wound up missing the cut when he made double bogey on the 18th. Adam Scott was trying to stay in the mix until he had a wedge spin back into the water on the par-5 15th, hit the next over the green and took triple bogey.

Scheffler had no such troubles, even if it didn’t feel that way.

“Definitely felt like I was in a fight today,” Scheffler said.

Scheffler got his mistakes out of the way early and began to seize control with two birdies right before making the turn. After a tough par save from right of the 11th green, he added two birdies from 12 feet on the par-3 12th and a tough pitch from well right on the par-5 13th.

By then, the wind began to subside in the late afternoon and Scheffler began to pull away with two more birdies that made him a clear and difficult target on the weekend.

And to think only two months ago he still didn’t have a PGA Tour victory.

Woods made it through another hike along the undulating terrain of Augusta National, his limp more noticeable from a right leg held together with rods and screws from his car



Tiger Woods reacts after missing a birdie putt on the 16th hole during the second round of the Masters on Friday. CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

crash 14 months ago.

“I don’t feel as good as I would like to feel,” Woods said with a smile. “That’s OK. As I said, I’ve got a chance going into the weekend. Hopefully, I’ll have one of those light bulb moments and turn it on in the weekend and get it done.”

Thomas, with whom Woods played his practice rounds last week and in the days lead-

ing up to the Masters, shook off his first-round troubles. He opened with a 76 and spent the rest of the day sulking at what looked to be a lost opportunity.

He capped off his 67 with three straight birdies along the back nine.

“I very easily could be going home right now, and not only am I not, but I’m in a really good spot going into this weekend,” Thomas said.



Harold Varner III walks to the 18th green during the second round of the Masters on Friday. ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY

MASTERS COMMENTARY

A drive for equality

Faint signs of progress at the home of the Masters

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press

The only color Harold Varner III was focused on at his first Masters was red.

And maybe, if he let his mind wander just a bit, there was a thought of green.

As in a green jacket.

Hardly looking like a rookie in the increasingly fierce conditions at windy Augusta National, the 31-year-old North Carolinian posted his second straight below-par round on Friday — a pair of red numbers that pushed him into contention heading to the weekend.

But let’s talk about another color.

Varner is Black, and he’s apparently part of something unprecedented at a course that cherishes its history and traditions as much as any other, even though many of them are relics of a much uglier era. It’s believed to be the first time that three Black golfers — in this case, Varner, Tiger Woods and Cameron Champ — have been part of a Masters field.

“That’s cool,” Varner said. “I would hope to see more, but it’s going to be up to that person. It’s not going to be the color of their skin that’s going to get them here. You’re going to get here on merit, and I think that’s awesome.”

Coming on the heels of America’s racial reckoning in the summer of 2020 and the death a few months ago of Augusta pioneer Lee Elder, the significance of this moment

should not be ignored. But it shouldn’t be made into something bigger than it is.

A quarter-century removed from Woods’ historic first Masters victory, there are still far too few Black players in golf’s pipeline. A sport that long discriminated against people of color still has an awful long ways to go to get more of them on the course.

Think of it this way: Three Black golfers represent a mere 3.3% of the 91 players who qualified for the first major of the year. Varner knows that a lack of access is one of the big problems facing potential Black golfers.

This is an expensive sport to play. The best courses are rarely located in Black communities. Varner hopes that his Masters debut will help to break down some of those barriers.

“I think a lot of times in the Black community, it’s more about the economic issues,” he said. “It’s just hard to play golf. You can’t just walk up and play golf for a reasonable price. I’m very adamant about helping those people. If they’re Black, I’m going to help them. If they’re white, I’m going to help them.”

Of course, it was more than economics that kept Black golfers off the best courses for the bulk of the sport’s history.

The PGA of America had a repulsive “Caucasian-only” rule until 1961. It wasn’t until 1975 that Elder became the first Black player to qualify for the Masters. Augusta National didn’t allow its first Black member until 1990 — and only then to slide through the controversy over Shoal Creek Country Club hosting the PGA Championship while refusing to allow Black golfers as members.

Augusta National’s sexist side also was rekindled this week, when Chairman Fred Ridley was asked about the 10th anniversary of the club allowing women as members.

Yep, that no-brainer of a decision was a mere decade ago.

“Our culture is better,” Ridley said, sounding almost apologetic that it took so long. “We are a better club, a better organization, and we’re proud to have women among our membership.”

The same applies to Augusta National’s approach to racial matters.

It was only after protests rocked the nation in the summer of 2020 that the club got involved.

Elder was invited to hit the ceremonial opening tee shot at the 2021 Masters, though, at the age of 86, he was too feeble to actually swing the club alongside Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player. That would be Elder’s final Masters; he died this past November. Augusta National also funded golf scholarships in Elder’s name for historically black Paine College, as well as backing the start-up of a women’s golf program at the school located a mere 4 miles from Magnolia Lane.

Maybe if Augusta National had gotten behind these sort of initiatives 20 or 30 years ago, instead of clinging stubbornly to the past for far too long, there would have been more than three Black players at the this Masters.

But, for now at least, we’ll have to be content with the faint signs of progress that will be on display this weekend at the Masters.

BRUINS

Battle for No. 1 goalie spot continues

By Steve Conroy
Boston Herald

TAMPA, Fla. — Coach Bruce Cassidy confirmed Friday what was becoming increasingly clear over the past couple of weeks: The competition to be the Boston Bruins’ No. 1 goalie is still wide open. And it may not even been closed by the time the Stanley Cup playoffs roll around.

After the Bruins had two off days, Cassidy made a mildly eyebrow-raising move to go with Linus Ullmark for Friday’s big game against the Tampa Bay Lightning. The recent stats for Ullmark (5-0, 1.69 GAA, .931 save percentage) and Jeremy Swayman (3-3, 3.39, .883) made it hard to argue with the move.

Ullmark stepped up with 28 saves in a 2-1 overtime victory. Charlie Coyle scored 3:37 into overtime to give the Bruins the win. Jake DeBrusk scored 47 seconds into the second period to open the scoring. Tampa’s Pierre-Edouard Bellemare scored a second-period goal to tie it at 1.

It wasn’t too long ago that many of thought that Swayman would be the man after he ripped off a 9-0-1 run from Feb. 12 to March 12.

That is not necessarily so.

“We’ve relied on both of them. They’ve both played well for the most part. Linus right now probably has been more consistent than Jeremy as of late,” Cassidy told reporters in Tampa. “This is Jeremy’s first real (dip) since he’s been here. He’s been steady. It’s been a bit of blip here, and we’re going to allow him to play through it. Hopefully he finds it again and we’ll go right down to the wire with good choices in that regard. If you’re asking, looking ahead to the playoffs, who would be the guy, we’re undecided right now. It could be both. We’re not sure yet.”

REGIONAL DIGEST

Donlan powers UConn baseball past St. John’s

Matt Donlan was 3 for 4 with two doubles, a home run and five RBIs to lead UConn (22-7) to a 12-7 victory over St. John’s in a Big East baseball game Friday night in Storrs. The Huskies got out to a fast start with a six-run first, highlighted by Donlan’s three-run homer.

Starter Austin Peterson (6-0) gave up five hits and one run, striking out six, in six innings for the win.

UConn hockey’s Tverberg an All-American: UConn sophomore Ryan Tverberg was named a CCM/ACHA All-American as one of the nation’s top-24 men’s college hockey players at the “Friday Night at the Frozen Four” in Boston. Tverberg earned a spot on the East second team. He is the second Husky to earn All-America status during the program’s Division I era (1998-present) and is the second in consecutive years after Jonny Evans was named to the second team last season. Tverberg is one of six sophomores among this year’s honorees and is one of seven Hockey East players to be named, the highest total among college hockey’s conferences. Tverberg played all 36 games for the Huskies this season, leading the team with 14 goals. He finished the season with 32 points, second on the team.

Athletic to host New York Red Bulls: Hartford Athletic will host MLS side New York Red Bulls in the third round of the US Open Cup at Trinity Health Stadium. The match will be played between April 19-21 with the official date and time yet to be confirmed. This will be the team’s first official match against an MLS opponent. Hartford advanced to the third round of the US Open Cup after a 3-1 victory over Oyster Bay United FC on Thursday night.

Travelers Championship tickets on sale April 20: Tickets for the 2022 Travelers Championship will go on sale April 20. The tournament will take place June 20-26 at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. Tickets can be purchased at TravelersChampionship.com. — Staff reports



Safety Tip of the Day

Drowsy-driving crashes are most likely to happen between midnight and 6 a.m. If you feel yourself becoming sleepy while driving, you should take measures to keep yourself awake and alert.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Boston	50	31	.617	—
x-Philadelphia	49	31	.610	1/2
x-Toronto	47	33	.588	2 1/2
Brooklyn	42	38	.525	7 1/2
New York	36	45	.444	14

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
z-Miami	52	28	.650	—
Atlanta	42	38	.525	10
Charlotte	41	39	.513	11
Washington	35	46	.432	17 1/2
Orlando	21	60	.259	31 1/2

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
y-Milwaukee	51	30	.630	—
x-Chicago	45	35	.563	5 1/2
Cleveland	43	37	.538	7 1/2
Indiana	25	55	.313	25 1/2
Detroit	23	58	.284	28

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
y-Memphis	55	25	.688	—
x-Dallas	50	30	.625	5
New Orleans	36	44	.450	19
San Antonio	34	46	.425	21
Houston	20	60	.250	35

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
x-Utah	48	32	.600	—
Denver	48	33	.593	1/2
Minnesota	46	35	.568	2 1/2
Portland	27	53	.338	21
Oklahoma City	24	56	.300	24

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
z-Phoenix	63	17	.788	—
x-Golden State	51	29	.638	12
L.A. Clippers	40	40	.500	23
L.A. Lakers	31	49	.388	32
Sacramento	29	51	.363	34

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Milwaukee 131, Detroit 101
New York 114, Washington 92
Cleveland at Brooklyn, late
Houston at Toronto, late
Atlanta at Miami, late
Charlotte at Chicago, late
Portland at Dallas, late
Phoenix at Utah, late
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Indiana at Philadelphia, 1p.m.
New Orleans at Memphis, 6p.m.
Golden State at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 9:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Atlanta at Houston, 3:30p.m.
Indiana at Brooklyn, 3:30p.m.
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 3:30p.m.
Washington at Charlotte, 3:30p.m.
Boston at Memphis, 7p.m.
Detroit at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Miami at Orlando, 7p.m.
Toronto at New York, 7p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8:30p.m.
Golden State at New Orleans, 9:30p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 9:30p.m.
Okla. City at L.A. Clippers, 9:30p.m.
Sacramento at Phoenix, 9:30p.m.
San Antonio at Dallas, 9:30p.m.
Utah at Portland, 9:30p.m.

END REGULAR SEASON

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 128, Orlando 101
Toronto 119, Philadelphia 114
Milwaukee 127, Boston 121
New Orleans 127, Portland 94
Minnesota 127, San Antonio 121
Denver 122, Memphis 109
Golden State 128, L.A. Lakers 112

NBA INDIVIDUAL LEADERS					
Through Thursday					
SCORING AVERAGE	G	FG	FT	PTS	
Embiid, PHI	67	652	643	2038	30.4
James, LAL	56	640	254	1695	30.3
Antetokounmpo, MIL	66	680	542	1972	29.9
Doncic, DAL	63	621	348	1872	28.3
Young, ATL	74	689	488	2092	28.3
DeRozan, CHI	75	767	517	2101	28.0
Morant, MEM	56	573	311	1543	27.6
Jokic, DEN	74	764	379	2020	27.1
Tatum, BOS	75	697	397	2015	26.9
Booker, PHO	67	649	310	1789	26.7
Mitchell, UTA	66	610	264	1715	26.0
Curry, GS	64	535	275	1630	25.6
Towns, MIN	74	642	384	1818	24.5
Gilgeous-Alexndr, OKC	56	477	328	1731	24.5
LaVine, CHI	66	556	317	1612	24.4
Brown, BOS	65	568	241	1541	23.7
Fox, SAC	59	516	261	1367	23.2
Siakam, TOR	67	584	279	1522	22.7
Garland, CLE	66	526	211	1431	21.7
Edwards, MIN	71	546	218	1255	21.5
Butler, MIA	56	393	386	1199	21.4
Murray, SA	67	568	190	1421	21.2
Herrero, MIA	65	495	188	1352	20.8
Brigges, CHA	78	585	264	1584	20.3
VanVleet, TOR	65	442	194	1320	20.3
Middleton, MIL	65	446	259	1310	20.2
Barrett, NY	69	481	288	1388	20.1
Randle, NY	72	512	303	1447	20.1
Bail, CHA	73	522	207	1460	20.0
Rozier, CHA	71	501	150	1368	19.3
Holiday, MIL	65	473	137	1215	18.7
Westbrook, LAL	78	548	266	1441	18.5
Poole, GS	74	464	231	1365	18.4
Bane, MEM	75	502	138	1366	18.2
Trent, TOR	68	433	171	1240	18.2
Russell, MIN	65	401	198	1176	18.1
Bogdanovic, UTA	68	415	219	1227	18.0
Valanciunas, NO	73	507	235	1306	17.9
Wood, HOU	68	440	207	1218	17.9
Vucevic, CHI	72	544	90	1282	17.8
Cunningham, DET	63	423	140	1100	17.5

3-PT FG PERCENTAGE	3FG	3FGA	PCT
Kennard, LAC	184	409	.450
Maxey, PHI	130	299	.435
Bane, MEM	224	519	.432
Johnson, PHO	165	385	.429
Ball, CHI	110	260	.423
McDermott, SA	108	256	.422
Irving, BKN	95	226	.420
Holiday, MIL	132	317	.416
Tucker, MIA	80	193	.415
Haliburton, SAC	104	252	.413
Pritchard, BOS	99	240	.413
Williams, BOS	105	254	.413
Gordon, HOU	124	301	.412
Conley, UTA	165	402	.410
Towns, MIN	160	366	.410
Aiken, MIL	159	389	.409
Strus, MIA	179	439	.408
Burks, NY	154	379	.406

ODDS

MLB	SATURDAY		
NATIONAL LEAGUE	FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
at St. Louis	-184	Pittsburgh	+159
at Chi. Cubs	off	Milwaukee	off
at San Fran.	-155	Miami	+133
NY Mets	-140	at Wash.	+120
at Atlanta	-167	Cincinnati	+143
San Diego	-160	at Arizona	+138
LA Dodgers	-177	at Colorado	+150
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
Chi. White Sox	-145	at Detroit	+125
at Tampa Bay	-231	Baltimore	+188
at Minnesota	-144	Seattle	+124
at Toronto	-200	Texas	+168
at NY Yankees	-178	Boston	+154
at Kansas City	-124	Cleveland	+108
Houston	-121	at LA Angels	+102
INTERLEAGUE			
at Philadelphia	-210	Oakland	+175

NBA	SATURDAY		
FAVORITE	LINE	Q/U	UNDERDOG
at Philadelphia	off	(off)	Indiana
at Memphis	off	(off)	New Orleans
at San Antonio	off	(off)	Golden State
at LA Clippers	off	(off)	Sacramento

NFL	SATURDAY		
FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	Line
at Dallas	-275	New Jersey	+220
at Pittsburgh	-142	Washington	+118
Florida	-122	at Nashville	+102
at Toronto	-450	Montreal	+340
Columbus	-130	at Detroit	+108
at NY Rangers	-265	Ottawa	+215
Calgary	-210	at Seattle	+170
at Philadelphia	-120	Anaheim	+112
at Sr. Louis	-156	NY Islanders	+130
at Vancouver	-144	San Jose	+120
Colorado	-140	at Edmonton	+130
at Las Vegas	-430	Arizona	+316

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, <https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/>

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
x-Florida	71	50	15	6	106	298	213		
Toronto	71	46	19	6	98	274	219		
Boston	70	44	21	5	93	223	190		
Tampa Bay	70	43	20	7	93	233	202		
Detroit	71	28	34	9	65	205	272		
Buffalo	73	26	36	11	63	203	259		
Ottawa	70	26	38	6	58	189	227		
Montreal	71	20	40	11	51	188	272		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
x-Carolina	72	46	18	8	100	238	173		
N.Y. Rangers	72	46	20	6	98	220	186		
Pittsburgh	72	41	21	10	92	237	197		
Washington	70	38	22	10	86	230	205		
N.Y. Islanders	70	33	28	9	75	194	190		
Columbus	72	33	33	6	72	230	269		
Philadelphia	71	23	37	11	57	185	251		
New Jersey	71	24	41	6	54	218	268		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
x-Colorado	70	50	14	6	106	268	193		
Minnesota	69	43	21	5	91	254	215		
St. Louis	70	40	20	10	90	254	203		
Nashville	70	41	25	4	86	233	203		
Dallas	70	40	26	4	84	207	210		
Winnipeg	71	33	28	10	76	218	222		
Chicago	71	24	36	11	59	188	249		
Arizona	71	22	44	5	49	178	259		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Calgary	71	43	19	9	95	249	177		
Edmonton	72	42	25	5	89	254	228		
Los Angeles	73	38	25	10	86	209	208		
Vegas	72	39	29	4	82	228	215		
Vancouver	72	34	28	10	78	208	204		
Anaheim	72	28	32	12	68	201	234		
San Jose	70	29	32	9	67	184	224		
Seattle	71	23	42	6	52	185	246		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Florida 4, Buffalo 3
N.Y. Islanders 2, Carolina 1
Boston at Tampa Bay, late
Colorado at Winnipeg, late
Minnesota at St. Louis, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
New Jersey at Dallas, 2p.m.
Washington at Pittsburgh, 3p.m.
Florida at Nashville, 6p.m.
Calgary at Seattle, 7p.m.
Columbus at Detroit, 7p.m.
Montreal at Toronto, 7p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Anaheim at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at St. Louis, 8p.m.
Arizona at Vegas, 10p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 10p.m.
San Jose at Vancouver, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Washington, 1:30p.m.
Nashville at Pittsburgh, 4p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 5p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 5p.m.
Anaheim at Carolina, 6p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 7p.m.
Winnipeg at Ottawa, 7:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 4, Columbus 1
N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 0
Montreal 7, New Jersey 4
Nashville 3, Ottawa 2
Carolina 5, Buffalo 3
Seattle 2, Chicago 0
Toronto 4, Dallas 3(OT)
Vancouver 5, Arizona 1
Edmonton 3, Los Angeles 2
Calgary 4, San Jose 2

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER						
EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Philadelphia	4	0	1	13	9	2
N.Y. Red Bulls	3	1	1	10	9	4
Atlanta	3	1	1	10	9	8
Chicago	2	0	3	9	5	1
Columbus	2	1	2	8	10	6
Orlando City	2	2	2	8	7	7
Toronto FC	2	2	1	7	7	9
D.C. United	2	3	0	6	5	5
Charlotte FC	2	4	0	6	6	9
Cincinnati	2	4	0	6	8	14
New York City FC	1	3	1	4	5	6
New England	1	3	1	4	6	9
CF Montreal	1	3	1	4	9	14
Inter Miami CF	0	4	1	1	3	13
WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	4	0	1	13	13	4
Real Salt Lake	3	1	2	11	7	5
LA Galaxy	3	2	0	9	7	5
Austin FC	2	1	2	8	13	5
FC Dallas	2	1	2	8	7	3
Colorado	2	1				
Houston	2	1	2	8	6	4
Minnesota United	2	1	2	8	5	4
Seattle	2	2	1	7	6	6
Nashville	2	2	1	7	4	5
Kansas City	2	4	0	6	4	9
Portland	1	2	3	6	7	11
Vancouver	1	3	1	4	3	9
San Jose	0	3	2	2	6	11

MOTORING

COURANT.COM/CLASSIFIED/AUTOMOTIVE



A lone, unsold 2022 Bolt electric vehicle sits in a storage lot at a Chevrolet dealership in February in Englewood, Colo. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

THE DEBATE: ELECTRIC VS. GAS

Analysis shows EV would likely cost less to own in the long run than a traditional vehicle

By **Cassandra Coyer**
The Charlotte Observer

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine helped spur record-high gas prices at U.S. pumps, many have debated whether owning an electric car instead of a gasoline one could be a wise investment.

In short, electric vehicles do tend to cost less in the long term than some of the most popular gasoline cars in the U.S., according to a February analysis by Atlas Public Policy.

"You can't really get out a calculator and do this at home," said Tom Taylor, policy analyst at Atlas Public Policy. "It's really difficult."

And indeed, it is.

There are many studies and articles online comparing the costs of electric vehicles versus gas ones. But, Taylor warns, customers need to closely read these studies to truly understand what these numbers mean.

Comparing the costs

According to the Atlas Public Policy analysis,

while the initial purchase price for electric vehicles tends to be higher than for gas ones, other expenses such as fuel, maintenance, insurance and taxes bring the total ownership cost for electric vehicles down in the long term, ending up cheaper than many gasoline alternatives.

The analysis compared costs of some of the most popular vehicles in the U.S. and their electric alternatives.

Two "low-cost" sedans were compared in the study: a 2022 Toyota Corolla — a gas vehicle — and a 2022 Chevrolet Bolt — electric.

The Toyota selling price starts at about \$20,000, while the Chevrolet sells for about \$30,000.

But the upfront costs are only one part of the equation. After running calculations based on eight years of driving the electric-powered Bolt and gas-powered Corolla, the total cost of owning the Chevrolet Bolt would reach \$47,325. In comparison, the total cost of owning the Toyota Corolla would reach \$50,350.



Demonstration charge on the 2020 Chevrolet Bolt EV. ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2020

"You can see that particularly maintenance and fueling of the vehicle are really significant cost savers for electric vehicles," Taylor said. "So electric vehicle owners save a lot of money from those two elements in particular compared with their gasoline equivalent."

The average yearly cost to run a gas vehicle in the U.S. in 2022 is estimated to be \$4,336 — compared to \$3,679 for an electric vehicle, according to Self, a financial technology company.

The Self study consid-

ered factors including "fuel, energy, mileage, insurance, EV incentives, taxes, registration fees, maintenance, emissions tests."

Costs vary state by state

The cost of running an electric car versus a gas one varies state by state.

For example, in Massachusetts, fueling up in 2022 is on average predicted to be \$609.86 cheaper for electric vehicles than gas ones — about a \$50 monthly difference.

But in Nevada, that difference goes up to \$1,220.16 in savings

for electric car owners compared to gas ones — about \$100 difference each month, according to Self.

In California, electric car owners are projected to save about \$1,198 for fuel on average, according to Self, while those in Washington can expect to save about \$1,178.

Savings are most noticeable for those who charge their electric vehicle at home. Charging is much cheaper than gasoline — "a dollar or two each day," according to the Wall Street Journal.

But if you go on a road trip, that's when costs can add up and flip the answer. The Wall Street Journal reported that in most U.S. cities, stopping at fast-charging electric stations can actually be more expensive than stopping at regular gasoline stations.

'Total cost of ownership'

While electric cars seem to overall be cheaper to own than gasoline ones over time, now might not be the best time to buy them, according to Michelle Krebs, executive analyst for Autotrader.

"EVs are great if you can get them (and can afford them)," Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas said, according to CNBC.

Krebs said that supply chain issues caused by the war in Ukraine have been impacting gasoline and electric vehicles alike and prices are going up. Tesla raised prices of its electric cars in the U.S. and China for the second time since March 9.

"Even for people who want to switch to electric, they have nowhere to go," Jessica Caldwell, executive director of insights at Edmunds.com, told CNBC. "Anything you're looking to buy, you're on a waitlist ... or even if you're looking to downsize your purchase, you're paying top dollar. It just doesn't make sense to make a move right now."

Still, prices at the pump are encouraging many in the U.S. to consider the electric alternative.

"People could potentially save a fair bit of money from the electric equivalent compared with the gasoline vehicle and that's including the total cost of ownership," Taylor said.

Deciding when to fix your car or buy a new one

By **Ronald Montoya**
Associated Press/Edmunds

Perhaps this scenario is familiar to you. Your car broke down and now you're faced with a costly repair bill. It may not have been the first time this has happened and you're getting tired of pouring money into an aging machine. A new car would be nice, but is that the smartest decision in today's inflated market? As new and used vehicle transac-

tion prices continue to hit record highs, many owners are asking themselves: "Should I fix my car or trade it in for a new one?"

The average 12-month repair and maintenance cost for a 5-year-old vehicle is \$205 and increases to \$430 for a 10-year-old vehicle, according to a 2020 survey from Consumer Reports. But if you're one of the unlucky ones who had a catalytic converter go bad or get stolen, it cost an average of \$1,383 to repair,

according to a 2021 report from CarMD. It may not seem like much, but there's no guarantee that another issue won't rear its head in the future.

If buying a new car doesn't fit your budget right now, or you prefer to let the market cool off, it might be a good idea to fix your car to get a bit more life out of it and avoid making a hasty car purchase. Generally speaking, it is almost always less expensive to repair a car than buy a new

one.

Old cars can be unpredictable. If the maintenance costs are getting out of hand or the car leaves you stranded often, it may be time to buy a new one. You won't have to worry about paying for repairs for the duration of the new car warranty. And major repairs are not likely to occur for a few years past that.

Even opting for a more reliable used car, such as a certified pre-owned vehi-



STEVEN SENNE/AP

cle, can be enough to calm those nerves. A new car will also be much safer, both in terms of its rigidity, crumple zones and modern safety equipment.

Features such as automatic emergency braking, backup cameras and blind-spot monitoring are increasingly becoming standard on new vehicles.



The 2022 Chevrolet Suburban is a vehicle with space worth exploring. ISTOCK/GETTY

AUTO REVIEW

With 2022 Chevy Suburban, space truly is the final frontier

By Larry Printz
Tribune News Service

In an age when even Rolls-Royce sells an SUV, it's easy to forget that they didn't always exist. The first one — no, it wasn't Jeep — was the Chevrolet Suburban.

Of course, Suburban wasn't always a brand name. The term was originally a generic designation for a station wagon type vehicle that was manufactured and marketed by such automakers as Chevrolet, Dodge, GMC, Nash, Plymouth and Studebaker — some of them concurrently. It wasn't until 1988 that the Suburban became a General Motors trademark, some 10 years after Plymouth dropped its Suburban model.

But those other Suburbans are long gone. What remains is basically Chevrolet's body-on-frame, three-row SUV that's basically a longer version of the Chevrolet Tahoe. Available in ascending LS, LT, RST, Z71, Premier and High Country trim, the Suburban was redesigned for 2021, and gets a number of detail changes this year.

But you've no doubt seen any number of Suburbans by this point; they're hard to miss. Their massive size and slab-sided wardrobe are capped by a grille that's

2022 Chevrolet Suburban AWD Z71

Base price: \$63,000
Engine: 6.2-liter Ecotec V-8 engine
Horsepower/Torque: 420/460
EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 14/19 mpg
Length/Width/Height: 225.7/81/75.7 inches
Ground clearance: 8 inches
Payload: 1,876 pounds
Cargo capacity: 41.5-144.7 cubic feet
Towing capacity: 7,600 pounds

distinctive, but lacking in panache. The overall effect is intimidating, if only for its size and height. But that garden shed-like size provides for a very accommodating interior with incredible legroom in the first two rows, and more than sufficient space in the third row. Yes, you do lose some headroom has you move rearward, but it's negligible. And using all three rows doesn't eat into cargo space. There's more than 41 cubic feet with all three rows in use.

As is the custom these days, the 12.3-inch touchscreen has the features you'll appreciate — especially the integrated Google software. But the system's new user interface is baffling at times,

and its hierarchy isn't as logical to use as you might expect. But the reconfigurable instrument cluster is easy to use.

Standard driver assistance safety systems include automatic emergency braking, forward collision alert, lane keep assist with lane departure warning, following distance indicator, front pedestrian braking, front/rear park assist, rear vision camera, and automatic high beams. Even if you're accustomed to vehicles this large, to drive a Suburban is to become constantly aware of the width of lanes and parking spaces. Patronizing a drive-thru will elicit apprehension. It's not unusual for backing out of a spot in a parking lot to require a three-point turn. Normal driving mode becomes an anxiety-ridden exercise until you come to terms with the Suburban's bulk. Yet overall, the Suburban feels somewhat agile for a vehicle of its size, with admirable dynamics overall.

As "Star Trek's" Gene Roddenberry once put it, space is the final frontier. And the 2022 Chevrolet Suburban is a vehicle with space worth exploring and exploring in. After all, just think of how much you can bring along.

Is car OK after sitting unused?



Bob Weber
Motormouth

Q: I am writing on behalf of my 94-year-old dad, who has a 2000 Dodge Intrepid with 110,249 miles that hasn't been driven for about two years. His neighbor would like to buy the car. However, he has heard that if a car has not been used for a long time, the cylinders are dry and should be oiled before driving. Is that true? If so, how do we go about doing it, or would it need to be towed to a garage? What would the cost for something like that be?

— J.J., Minneapolis
A: Unless the car has been sitting in a corn field for several years, the cylinders may not be dry. A garaged car may still have an oil film. Chances are, it is OK. To be on the safe side, you could squirt a bit of oil into each cylinder by removing the spark plugs.

But I suggest giving the car a compete once-over by a pro. It may take about an hour or close to \$100. On the lift, the tech can check for leaks and change the oil if necessary. The oil must be clean. The air filter should not be a mansion for mice.

The gas will be stale so adding fresh stuff along with some fuel conditioner is a good idea. The tires are likely OK. Once the vehicle is base-lined, the new owner can drive it with confidence.

Q: I read and enjoy your column every Saturday in the Las Vegas Review Journal. I drive my 2020 Toyota Camry TRD about twice a week. If I were to use a battery maintainer, would it harm my electrical system? I ask because of all the components on the new cars. I use one on



A garaged car may still have an oil film. Chances are, it is OK. To be on the safe side, you could squirt a bit of oil into each cylinder by removing the spark plugs. DREAMSTIME

my 1967 GTO, which helps me in keeping the battery charged up.
— V.T., Henderson, Nevada
A: No, a battery maintainer will do no harm to neither a new, high-tech car nor your classic, low-tech "Goat."

Q: Since moving to the Twin Cities in June, I have been searching for stations prominently displaying the Top Tier logo. Every list of TT vendors I've found includes BP and Holiday (just two examples), but I have yet to see any labeling or signage about Top Tier at any of these stations around here. Early on, I went to a BP station hoping to find TT. No labels, no signage. I went inside to ask and was not surprised at the blank stare I got. I believe Acura says my 2017 RD should burn only Top Tier. When I lived in California, I grudgingly paid the premium at Arco, and religiously saved every receipt in case I had a warranty claim and wanted to prove that I was a Top Tier apostle.

— G.G., Eden Prairie, Minnesota
A: You won't see any neon signs announcing, "We have Top Tier gasoline." But there is usually a sticker on the pump stating

so. Oil companies agree to sell only fuel that meets the Top Tier standard at all of their retail outlets. You can find the list of stations at the organization's website (www.toptiergas.com), which states:

- All retail locations within the licensed country must meet the high standards of the Top Tier program.
- All gasoline grades must be treated with an approved Top Tier Detergent Gasoline additive at the correct concentration.
- The Top Tier logo must be prominently displayed.
- Top Tier licensed retailers agree to not use organometallic additives (such as MMT or Ferrocene).

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

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WEATHER

SATURDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Scattered showers, breezy and seasonal. Southeast winds at 10 to 15 mph.

HIGH 54° LOW 39°

SUNDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny and breezy.

HIGH 54° LOW 38°

MONDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny and pleasant.

HIGH 61° LOW 45°

TUESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny, breezy and milder.

HIGH 69° LOW 47°

WEDNESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mixed clouds and sun, mild.

HIGH 68° LOW 48°

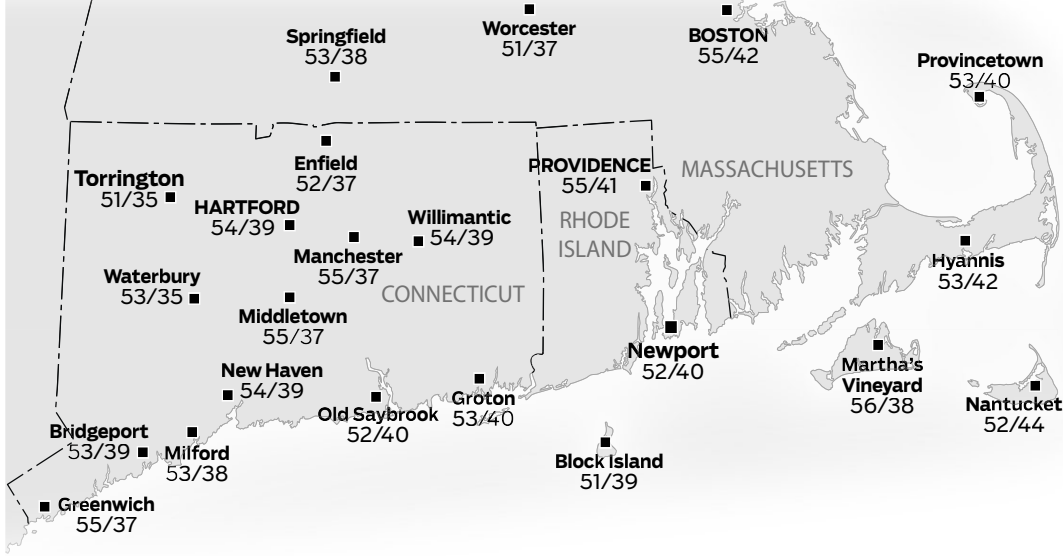
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YOURCAST



OUTLOOK

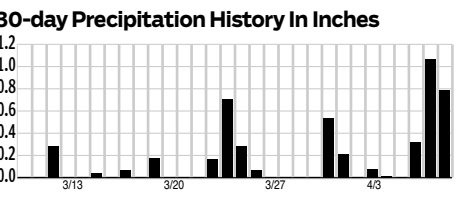
A frontal system crossing the region Thursday night produced showers and thunderstorms that dumped copious rainfall in portions of the state. Rainfall totals included: 3.22 inches in New Milford, 2.73 inches in Warren, 2.66 inches in Wilton, 2.58 inches in Southington, 2.48 inches in Bristol and Plainville, 2.47 inches in Farmington, and 2.35 inches in Prospect. It is highly unusual for such uniform totals from high accumulations as occurred in central Connecticut. The result was bank full rivers and streams. More showers are expected Saturday, but accumulations will be much lower.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	1.81 0.13
Month to date	2.48 0.98
Total this year	11.96 11.20
Snowfall In Inches	
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0 0.1
Total this year	31.5 51.2

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	4:30 a.m.	11:02 a.m.	49°
	5:02 p.m.	11:10 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	5:41 a.m.	11:55 a.m.	47°
	6:13 p.m.	p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	8:24 a.m.	2:50 a.m.	
	8:56 p.m.	3:41 p.m.	
Madison	5:36 a.m.	a.m.	46°
	6:16 p.m.	12:01 p.m.	
New Haven	5:56 a.m.	a.m.	45°
	6:36 p.m.	12:25 p.m.	
Stamford	6:00 a.m.	a.m.	45°
	6:40 p.m.	12:39 p.m.	
River Stage at Hartford:	10.37 feet at 6:30 p.m.		
Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W Showers	L.I. Sound E S/SW, 5-15	B.I. Sound Showers
Wind	S/SW, 5-15	SE/SW, 5-15	S/SW, 5-15
Seas	1 ft.	2-3 ft.	4-6 ft.

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good 33

Low 2

Low Trees

42°

Air Quality Today

Ultraviolet Index Today

Pollen Count Yesterday

Wind Chill Today

Today

Tomorrow

Sunrise 6:21 a.m.

Sunset 7:24 p.m.

Moonrise 11:44 a.m.

Moonset 2:52 a.m.

6:19 a.m.

7:25 p.m.

12:46 p.m.

3:33 a.m.

Moon Phase

Full Apr 16

Last Apr 23

New Apr 30

First May 8

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND	Bangor 50 37 C	Baltimore 59 36 C	Nashville 57 36 PC	San Juan 88 75 PC	Kingston 90 77 PC	Stockholm 38 31 SN
Burlington 48 35 R	Bismarck 60 30 PC	New Orleans 72 54 S	Tucson 93 60 S	Lisbon 66 55 SH	Sydney 75 63 SH	
Caribou 51 37 SH	Boise 49 25 C	New York 58 41 SH		London 55 43 C	Tel Aviv 68 52 PC	
Concord 55 33 SH	Buffalo 45 31 C	Okla. City 79 57 S	WORLD	Madrid 63 48 C	Tokyo 72 52 S	
Montpelier 47 31 R	Charleston 62 41 PC	Omaha 63 43 S	Amsterdam 48 34 SH	Mexico City 84 66 PC	Toronto 50 28 SH	
Mt. Wash. 29 16 R	Cincinnati 47 30 SH	Orlando 69 46 PC	Athens 77 54 S	Dubai 100 81 S	Vancouver 46 37 PC	
Portland 53 38 SH	Cleveland 45 33 SH	Pittsburgh 46 32 SH	Athens 77 54 S	Dublin 48 43 PC	Warsaw 48 34 SH	
Woods Hole 53 38 PC	Indianapolis 46 33 SH	Raleigh 60 36 PC	Bangkok 97 75 PC	Edinburgh 49 32 PC		
	Jacksonville 68 40 PC	St. Louis 57 43 S	Barbados 85 73 S	Helsinki 39 34 SN		
	Las Vegas 92 55 S	Salt Lake City 61 35 PC	Beijing 79 52 S	Hong Kong 82 70 S		
NATION	Miami Beach 80 61 PC	San Antonio 85 63 S	Beirut 69 58 PC	Istanbul 70 52 PC		
Albany 52 35 R	Milwaukee 45 32 PC	San Diego 70 61 PC	Berlin 48 36 SH	Jerusalem 72 48 S		
Albuquerque 79 49 S			Bermuda 76 66 SH	Johannesburg 59 50 SH		
Atlantic City 59 36 C	KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms			Singapore 93 75 T		

THURSDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BASEBALL

CCC-North
WINDSOR 13, HARTFORD PUBLIC/HMTCA 3 (5)
HP 000-30-3-5-4
W 490-0x-13-12-0
WP: Nathan Acabchuk. **LP:** Victor Romero. Rec.: W-2-0; HP-0-1.
CCC-Inter
MANCHESTER 13, BERLIN 11
B 230-420-0-11
M 000-337-x-13
WP: Brady Winn. **LP:** Evan Gentile. **HR:** M-Jonah Nielsen, Ben Cherry; B-Will Gormann. Rec.: M-2-0; B-0-1. **Note:** Cherry had a grand slam, Nielsen was 2-for-4 with 3 RBI and Gio Morales was 3-for-4 with 3 runs scored for Manchester.
NCCC
STAFFORD 13, SMSA 3 (5)
SM 102-00-3-3-5
ST 023-8x-13-15-0
WP: Sam Formus. **LP:** Aiden McCarthy. Rec.: ST-1-0; SM-1-2. **Note:** Hayden Iacobucci was 4-for-4 with 2 doubles, Isaac Minaya was 3-for-4 with 2 stolen bases and Ryan Gillyuly was 3-for-4 for Stafford.

SOFTBALL

CCC-Inter
CONARD 19, BLOOMFIELD 3 (5)
B 111-00-3-1-4
C 674-2x-19-9-0
WP: Amanda Hungerford. **LP:** Taraji Lammond. Rec.: C-1-1; B-1-1.
NCCC
WINDSOR LOCKS 14, HMTCA 0 (5)
WL 365-00-14
H 000-00-0
WP: R. Homan. **L:** Megan Lamphere. Rec.: WL-1-1; H-0-2.
Shoreline
CROMWELL 2, NORTH BRANFORD 0
NB 000-000-0-0-1-0
C 002-000-x-2-6-0
WP: Lily Kenney. **LP:** Kiley Mullins. Rec.: C-4-0; NB-0-3. **Note:** Kenney tossed a 1-hitter with 17 strikeouts and had an RBI double at the plate. Madison Tessmer also had an RBI double.
Others
WINDHAM 16, ELLIS TECH 0 (5)
ET 000-00-0-1-3
W 312(0)-1x-16-6-0
WP: Analise Escarraman. **LP:** Bailee Teevan. Rec.: W-3-0; ET-1-1. **Note:** Escarraman tossed a 1-hit shutout with 14 strikeouts. Aniyla Jenkins was 3-for-4 with 2 RBI and Cassidy O'Connor had 3 RBI.
CIVIC LEADERSHIP/AEROSPACE 13, CHENEY TECH 0
CT 000-000-0-0-0-3
CL 580-000-x-13-7-0
WP: Jenna Tinker. **LP:** Olivia Beebe. **HR:** CL-Selenia Fuentes, Bella Bordieri. Rec.: CL-2-0; CT-0-2.

BOYS LACROSSE

CCC-Inter
CONARD 15, RHAM 7
Goals: C-Casden Parker (3), Will Tousignant (3), Harrison Sweeney (2), Steven Mascolo (2), CJ Nelson, Brayden Grainger, Luke Shaffer, Walker Disque, Huy Doan; **R:**-Nicholas Pace (2), Boden Landers (2), Timothy Smith, Jacob Tresser, Brady Lalonde. Rec.: C-2-1; R-0-2.

BOYS GOLF

CCC-East
E.O. SMITH 190, SOUTH WINDSOR 195
Medalists: Alex Card, E.O. Smith and Zain Gray, South Windsor, 44 at The Windham Club.
TOLLAND 170, MANCHESTER 225
Medalist: Max Baldwin, Tolland, 38 at Twin Hills CC, Coventry.
NCCC
ELLINGTON 165, EAST GRANBY 220
Medalist: Bradley Sawka, Ellington, 35 at Copper Hill GC, East Granby.
CTC
NORWICH TECH 203, GOODWIN TECH 251
Medalist: Josh Lavender, Norwich Tech at Norwich GC.

FRIDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BASEBALL

CCC-South
PLATT 13, PLAINVILLE 1 (5)
PLT 044-32-13-9-1
PLN 100-00-1-3-6
WP: Brandon Cahill. **LP:** Sean Egan. Rec.: PLT-2-1; PLN-0-3. **Note:** Nelson Rondon was 3-for-4 with a double, 3 RBI and Mathew Merrigan was 2-for-3

with 2 RBI for Platt.

CCC-East
ENFIELD 6, TOLLAND 5
T 004-001-0-5-9-1
E 120-110-1-6-7-0
WP: Christopher Selle. **LP:** Jared Wilhelm. **HR:** E-Canon Marshall, Thomas Kluntz; T-Wilhelm. Rec.: E-2-0; T-2-1. **Note:** Brandon Rowe scored the game-winning run on a throwing error. Kluntz was 2-for-3 with 2 RBI. Wilhelm had a homer, 3 RBI.
MANCHESTER 3, SOUTH WINDSOR 0
WP: Cam Forstell. **LP:** Ben Balducci. Rec.: M-3-0; SW-0-2. **Note:** Forstell tossed a shutout with 7 strikeouts. Jonah Nielsen was 2-for-3 with 2 runs scored, 3 stolen bases and Dylan Jackson was 2-for-2 with 2 stolen bases for Manchester.

CCC-West
CONARD 5, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 1
NCCC
CANTON 7, ROCKVILLE 1
C 510-000-1-7-8-1
R 100-000-0-1-3-4
WP: Devin Brown. **LP:** Tiernan Doyle. Rec.: C-3-0; R-1-1. **Note:** Brown had 10 strikeouts.

Shoreline
MORGAN 4, HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 3
M 000-003-1-4-6-1
HK 000-003-0-3-5-2
WP: Garrett Garbinski. **LP:** Ryan Erskine. Rec.: M-1-3; HK-1-2. **Note:** Garbinski had 6 strikeouts and drove in the g-ahead run in the 7th with a sac fly. Nick Glynn had 2 hits for H-K.
OLD LYME 11, WESTBROOK 1

CTC
WILCOX TECH 20, GOODWIN TECH 1
SCC
HAND 13, LAW 3

Others
WINDHAM 20, PRINCE TECH 7

SOFTBALL

CCC-North
NEWINGTON 7, NEW BRITAIN 2
NB 100-100-0-2-4-4
N 012-211-x-7-5-1
WP: Jaelyn Gonzalez. **LP:** Cristina Velez. Rec.: N-2-0; NB-0-2. **Note:** Brianna Gadarowski was 2-for-4 with a triple, RBI and Ella Stair was 2-for-2 with 2 runs scored for Newington. Kizbelth Ortiz was 2-for-3 for New Britain.
WETHERSFIELD 3, ROCKY HILL 1
WP: Kyla Brogan. **LP:** Shauna Kehoe. Rec.: W-2-1; RH-0-2.
WINDSOR 22, HARTFORD PUBLIC 0
CCC-South
PLAINVILLE 12, PLATT 0

CCC-East
ENFIELD 14, TOLLAND 4
E 044-001-5-14-9-1
T 020-020-0-4-4-2
WP: Tiffany Lubanski. **LP:** Elsie McCaffrey. Rec.: E-1-1; T-1. **Note:** Meredith Higgins was 2-for-4 with a triple, 2 RBI, 3 runs scored and Cassidy Wallner had a double, 3 RBI for Enfield.
RHAM 12, E.O. SMITH 2
R 011-811-0-12-10-1
EOS 020-000-0-2-5-2
WP: Hadley Marchand. **LP:** Ashley Lewis. Rec.: R-2-0; EOS-1-1. **Note:** Natalie Assunto and Abigail Pace each had a double for RHAM.

CCC-West
GLASTONBURY 1, AVON 0
A 000-000-0-0-5-0
G 010-000-x-1-2-0
WP: Brooke Tracy. **LP:** Jacqueline Pengel. Rec.: G-2-0; A-0-1. **Note:** Tracy tossed a shutout with 17 strikeouts. Pengel had 13 strikeouts and gave up just 2 hits in the loss.
SIMSBURY 12, FARMINGTON 0 (5)
F 000-00-0-1-1-1
S 415-2x-12-12-0
WP: Mikaela Martinez. **LP:** Amber Wolkner. Rec.: S-3-0; F-0-2. **Note:** Martinez allowed 1 hit and struck out 8 over 5 innings. Olivia Davis was 3-for-3 for Simsbury.

NCCC
ELLINGTON 24, EAST GRANBY 1 (5)
E 363-84-24
EG 000-10-1
WP: Kaithyn Kerstetter. **LP:** Taylor Hayes. Rec.: E-2-1; EG-0-2. **Note:** Flaherty was 4-for-5 with a triple, 2 doubles and Syd Matz had 2 triples, 5 RBI for Ellington.
COVENTRY 8, SOMERS 0

Shoreline
HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 15, MORGAN 2 (5)
HK 502-53-15-14-4
M 002-00-2-3-3
WP: Kaleigh Bodak. **LP:** Kacey Edwards. Rec.: HK-4-0; M-1-3. **Note:** Brooke Hickman had a 3-run double and 2-run single and Keira Czarkowski had 2 hits, 3 runs scored for H-K.

CTC
KAYNOR TECH 19, PRINCE TECH 0 (5)
PT 000-00-0-2-0
KT 32(10)-4x-19-6-1
WP: Victoria Albright. **LP:** C. Alvarado. Rec.: KT-2-0; PT-0-3. **Note:** T. Valivieso had a triple for Prince. Albright had 10 strikeouts and was 3-for-3 with a triple, double, 4 RBI.
BULLARD-HAVENS 29, VINAL TECH 17
WILCOX TECH 15, GOODWIN TECH 0

Others
WINDHAM 14, WINDHAM TECH 0
WT 000-00-0-1-1
W 441-5x-14-6-0
WP: Analise Escarraman. **LP:** Bailee Miller. HRL
W-Aniyla Jenkins. Rec.: W-4-0; WT-0-3. **Note:** Escarraman tossed her fourth shutout of the year, with 12 strikeouts. Jenkins had a 2-run homer and scored 4 runs.

BOYS LACROSSE

Others
WILBUR CROSS 14, VINAL TECH/GOODWIN TECH 1

GIRLS LACROSSE

CCC-South
WETHERSFIELD 11, E.O. SMITH 4

CCC-Inter
CONARD 19, NEWINGTON 8
Goals: C-Sophia Lynch (7), Ruby Czajkowski (3), Olivia Hole (3), Nicole Gorman (2), Celia Gruber (2), Dani DiGiacomo, Lia Williams; **N:**-Morgan Hellman (4), Hailey Gaydos (2), Mackenzie Hillman, Valerie Egoroff. **Saves:** C-Nora Reason, 7; **N:**-Kaleigh Tsakiris, 5. Rec.: C-1-1; N-0-1. **Note:** Lynch also had 4 assists.
AVON 18, BERLIN 13

NCCC
CANTON 12, SOMERS 6
SCC
BRANFORD 17, MERCY 11
Goals: B-Ally Colburn (4), Tess Ferrie (4), Jenny Spencer (4), Taylor Tracy (3), Nina Shamas, Raiyn Fries; **M:**-Lily Schoonmaker (5), Mackenzie Kelley (4), Maddy Carbone, Megan Kasperowski. **Saves:** B-Holly Lischer, 13; **M:**-Callia Borkowski, 14. Rec.: B-1-1; M-0-3.

Others
EAST CATHOLIC 18, SUFFIELD 11
Goals: EC-Xamathi Quinonez (6), Mallory Bartlett (6), Marissa Pinkham (3), Kylie Branon, Meghan Croyle, Breanna Upton; **S:**-Georgia Qua (4), Lily Lockhard (2), Mac Chevrier (2), Zoe Kaplan (2), Gabby Mandirola. **Saves:** EC-Maren Riley, 9; **S:**-Anna Washburn, 7. Rec.: EC-1-0; S-1-2. **Note:** Bartlett also had 5 assists.

CCC-East
ENFIELD 3, SOUTH WINDSOR 0 (25-12, 25-20, 25-19)
E: Fritz-Carly Andre, 4 kills, 3 blocks, Henry Chavez, 14 digs, 1 ace; **SW:** Aidan Lacovelli, 14 kills, 3 digs, 1 ace, Ben Bernstein, 6 digs. Rec.: E-3-0; SW-0-3.
WETHERSFIELD 3, EAST HARTFORD 1

CCC-West
SOUTHINGTON 3, SIMSBURY 0 (25-18, 26-24, 25-21)
SO: Matthew Morgan, 12 kills, 12 digs, Ben Roper, 28 assists, 6 digs. Rec.: SO-2-1; SI-0-3.
NEWINGTON 3, HALL 1

CCC-Inter
GLASTONBURY 3, LEWIS MILLS 0
Others
NEW BRITAIN 3, WOLCOTT TECH 0 (25-13, 25-16, 25-16)
NB: Anthony Almeda, 17 assists, 16 kills; **WT:** Sean Bournique, 12 assists. NB-3-0; WT-2-2.
BARLOW 3, XAVIER 0 (25-17, 25-10, 25-17)
X: Peter O'Brien, 17 digs, 8 kills, Rory McCormack, 12 digs, 8 kills. Rec.: B-4-0; X-3-1.
BULKELEY/SMSA 3, NORWICH TECH 2

CCC-South
ELLINGTON 24, EAST GRANBY 1 (5)
E 363-84-24
EG 000-10-1
WP: Kaithyn Kerstetter. **LP:** Taylor Hayes. Rec.: E-2-1; EG-0-2. **Note:** Flaherty was 4-for-5 with a triple, 2 doubles and Syd Matz had 2 triples, 5 RBI for Ellington.
COVENTRY 8, SOMERS 0

CCC-North
NEWINGTON 7, NEW BRITAIN 2
NB 100-100-0-2-4-4
N 012-211-x-7-5-1
WP: Jaelyn Gonzalez. **LP:** Cristina Velez. Rec.: N-2-0; NB-0-2. **Note:** Brianna Gadarowski was 2-for-4 with a triple, RBI and Ella Stair was 2-for-2 with 2 runs scored for Newington. Kizbelth Ortiz was 2-for-3 for New Britain.
WETHERSFIELD 3, ROCKY HILL 1
WP: Kyla Brogan. **LP:** Shauna Kehoe. Rec.: W-2-1; RH-0-2.
WINDSOR 22, HARTFORD PUBLIC 0
CCC-South
PLAINVILLE 12, PLATT 0

CCC-East
ENFIELD 14, TOLLAND 4
E 044-001-5-14-9-1
T 020-020-0-4-4-2
WP: Tiffany Lubanski. **LP:** Elsie McCaffrey. Rec.: E-1-1; T-1. **Note:** Meredith Higgins was 2-for-4 with a triple, 2 RBI, 3 runs scored and Cassidy Wallner had a double, 3 RBI for Enfield.
RHAM 12, E.O. SMITH 2
R 011-811-0-12-10-1
EOS 020-000-0-2-5-2
WP: Hadley Marchand. **LP:** Ashley Lewis. Rec.: R-2-0; EOS-1-1. **Note:** Natalie Assunto and Abigail Pace each had a double for RHAM.

CCC-West
GLASTONBURY 1, AVON 0
A 000-000-0-0-5-0
G 010-000-x-1-2-0
WP: Brooke Tracy. **LP:** Jacqueline Pengel. Rec.: G-2-0; A-0-1. **Note:** Tracy tossed a shutout with 17 strikeouts. Pengel had 13 strikeouts and gave up just 2 hits in the loss.
SIMSBURY 12, FARMINGTON 0 (5)
F 000-00-0-1-1-1
S 415-2x-12-12-0
WP: Mikaela Martinez. **LP:** Amber Wolkner. Rec.: S-3-0; F-0-2. **Note:** Martinez allowed 1 hit and struck out 8 over 5 innings. Olivia Davis was 3-for-3 for Simsbury.

NCCC
ELLINGTON 24, EAST GRANBY 1 (5)
E 363-84-24
EG 000-10-1
WP: Kaithyn Kerstetter. **LP:** Taylor Hayes. Rec.: E-2-1; EG-0-2. **Note:** Flaherty was 4-for-5 with a triple, 2 doubles and Syd Matz had 2 triples, 5 RBI for Ellington.
COVENTRY 8, SOMERS 0

CCC-North
NEWINGTON 7, NEW BRITAIN 2
NB 100-100-0-2-4-4
N 012-211-x-7-5-1
WP: Jaelyn Gonzalez. **LP:** Cristina Velez. Rec.: N-2-0; NB-0-2. **Note:** Brianna Gadarowski was 2-for-4 with a triple, RBI and Ella Stair was 2-for-2 with 2 runs scored for Newington. Kizbelth Ortiz was 2-for-3 for New Britain.
WETHERSFIELD 3, ROCKY HILL 1
WP: Kyla Brogan. **LP:** Shauna Kehoe. Rec.: W-2-1; RH-0-2.
WINDSOR 22, HARTFORD PUBLIC 0
CCC-South
PLAINVILLE 12, PLATT 0

CCC-East
ENFIELD 14, TOLLAND 4
E 044-001-5-14-9-1
T 020-020-0-4-4-2
WP: Tiffany Lubanski. **LP:** Elsie McCaffrey. Rec.: E-1-1; T-1. **Note:** Meredith Higgins was 2-for-4 with a triple, 2 RBI, 3 runs scored and Cassidy Wallner had a double, 3 RBI for Enfield.
RHAM 12, E.O. SMITH 2
R 011-811-0-12-10-1
EOS 020-000-0-2-5-2
WP: Hadley Marchand. **LP:** Ashley Lewis. Rec.: R-2-0; EOS-1-1. **Note:** Natalie Assunto and Abigail Pace each had a double for RHAM.

CCC-West
GLASTONBURY 1, AVON 0
A 000-000-0-0-5-0
G 010-000-x-1-2-0
WP: Brooke Tracy. **LP:** Jacqueline Pengel. Rec

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Stirred into a split of bourbon and rye, crème de cassis helps create a contemporary take on a Manhattan. **SANG AN/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**

By Rebekah Peppler
The New York Times

Eaten fresh, black currants are tart and herbaceous. They pop with an earthy funk, playing musty and acidic on the tongue. When crushed, macerated in high-proof neutral alcohol and sweetened with sugar, the astringent fruit becomes a rich, deep red liqueur with a languid pour. A specialty of the Burgundy region of France (cassis translates to “black currant” in French), crème de cassis has been produced commercially since 1841.

In the mid-19th century, black currants were also grown in the United States, and producers began making domestic liqueurs from the fruit. But, in 1911, the federal government banned black currants, which carried white pine blister rust, a fungus that infected white pines and presented a threat to the timber industry. By 1966, disease-resistant strains were introduced, and local governments were given the option to lift the ban, though the berry was slow to reclaim its popularity.

In New York, where Rachael Petach uses the fruit to produce her black currant liqueur, C. Cassis, the ban was overturned in 2003. C. Cassis, sweetened with honey and



An El Diablo is a spicy-sweet mix of tequila, crème de cassis, fresh lime and ginger beer.

less syrupy than traditional crème de cassis, is closer in style and application to vermouth.

“Our take is a bit of a contemporary approach to the fruit; it’s a little playful,” Petach said. “It speaks to my palate for things that are just a little less sweet, a little botanical.”

Petach started experimenting with what would become C. Cassis in 2018, intent on bottling the semi-savory, herbal flavor of the fresh black currants she remembers eating directly off the bush while

working in France. “It was almost like when a song gets stuck in your head; it was like that flavor got stuck in my head,” she said. The company began distributing C. Cassis in 2020.

Petach describes a fresh black currant as a decidedly unfruity fruit. “It has this really bouncy acidity; it’s a little moody, and it’s not for everyone,” she said. “But for a lot of people, those qualities of the fruit are so spectacular and so unique that it’s fun to bring them to the forefront.”

The classic liqueur is best known for its part in the kir, a 19th-century French aperitif that combines dry white wine with crème de cassis, and the kir’s bubbly offshoot, the kir royale, which swaps in sparkling wine for still.

It is also measured into the El Diablo, a spicy-sweet combination of tequila, fresh lime, crème de cassis and ginger beer. Stirred into a split of bourbon and rye, the liqueur helps create a contemporary, brambly take on a Manhattan.

You can also pour a cassis-inflected spritz by combining it over ice with sparkling wine and soda water, or serve it alongside dry vermouth in a Vermouth Royale.

Or take a bottle entirely out of the bar and into the kitchen. Petach drizzles crème de cassis over ice cream or tosses fresh fruit in it in lieu of sugar.

If you’re looking to add a classic bottle of the liqueur to your bar, look for those labeled either Crème de Cassis de Dijon (made with black currants grown solely in Dijon, France) or Cassis de Bourgogne, which employs berries grown in the greater Burgundy region. Then, measure it into your next drink to infuse it with a royal hue and a concentrated hit of sweet-acidic fruit. But pour judiciously: As Petach notes, a little goes a long way.

Classic El Diablo

Bright, bubbly and refreshing to drink, the El Diablo combines tequila with rich, sweetly acidic crème de cassis, fresh lime juice and sharply spiced ginger beer. To ensure a balanced cocktail, use a ginger beer with a low sugar content rather than a more sugar-forward ginger ale.

Makes: 1 drink
Ice
1 ½ ounces reposado tequila
¾ ounce fresh lime juice
½ ounce crème de cassis
2 to 3 ounces ginger beer

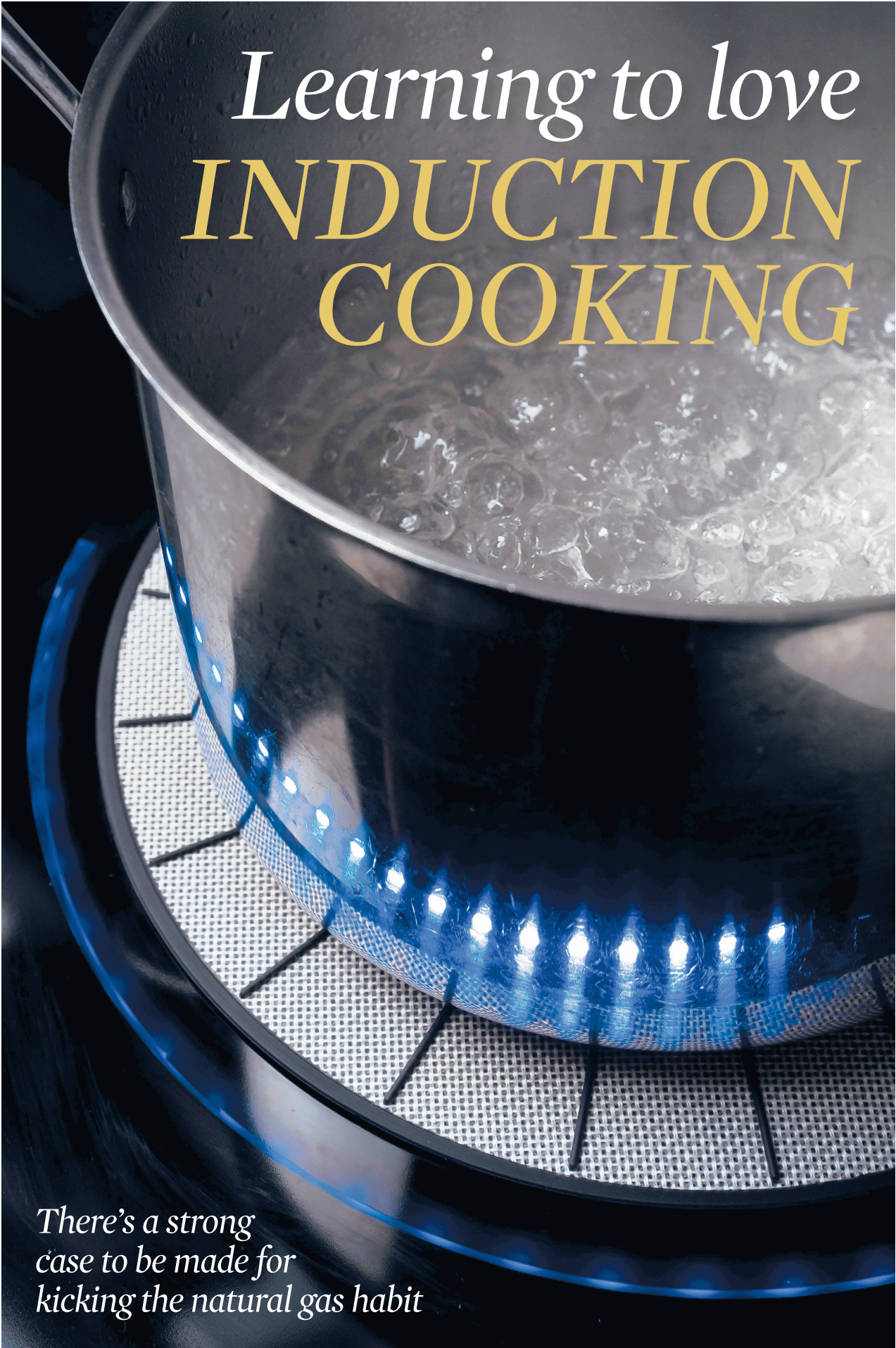
In an ice-filled shaker, combine the tequila, lime juice and crème de cassis. Shake until well chilled. Fill a Collins glass with ice, strain the cocktail into the glass and top with ginger beer.

Cassis Manhattan

With a rye-bourbon split and just enough slightly herbal crème de cassis to sweeten without overpowering, this Manhattan variation is spirit-forward, with layered notes of sugar and spice. If you prefer to keep the drink to one type of whiskey, opt for rye and leave out the bourbon. The cocktail will be slightly more spice-forward and boozy in feel. Whatever you do, let the cherry garnish sit until the very end of the drink for an especially flavorful final snack.

Makes: 1 drink
Ice
1 ounce rye whiskey
1 ounce bourbon
¾ ounce sweet vermouth
¼ ounce crème de cassis
3 to 4 dashes angostura bitters
1 brandied or maraschino cherry, for garnish

In a cocktail shaker or mixing glass filled with ice, combine the rye whiskey, bourbon, vermouth, crème de cassis and bitters. Stir until well chilled, about 30 seconds, then strain into a Nick and Nora or coupe glass. Garnish with a cherry.



An induction cooktop with blue lights that mimic the flames of a gas stove at the Brooklyn home of Robert Osborne on March 8. Cooking with gas has been shown to be catastrophic for the environment. **KARSTEN MORAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

By Melissa Clark
The New York Times

NEW YORK — Robert Osborne grew anxious about dinner when his Brooklyn co-op board put the kibosh on a plan to move a gas line for his kitchen renovation. How could Osborne, a math teacher, cook his favorite dishes like skillet chicken with caramelized mushrooms and onions if he couldn’t do it over the classic blue-orange blaze of a gas stove?

Like many of the more than 40 million home cooks in the United States with gas stoves, Osborne considered his to be essential, a nonnegotiable part of his kitchen that, had it not been for the co-op board, he would have kept.

After all, cooking over the open fire of a gas stove sparks something primal and intuitive in our lizard brains. Watching flames leap over the sides of a pan and lick the bone of a sizzling lamb chop is visceral and sensual, two adjectives you might not associate with the sleek ceramic surface of the Samsung induction range Osborne ended up installing instead.

But for all the sexiness of cooking with gas (a concept bolstered by aggressive lobbying and advertising from the natural gas industry), it has been shown to be catastrophic for the environment, emitting potent greenhouse gases like methane into the atmosphere. Worse, a recent study demonstrated that 75% of these emissions occur when the stove is off.

The noxious fumes that get trapped in our homes are also harmful, especially for children.

Brady Seals, a manager at RMI, a nonprofit focused on sustainability, and an author of a study examining the health effects of gas stoves, said indoor nitrogen dioxide levels can spike quickly, reaching hazardous levels in the amount of time



It took Osborne a few weeks to get used to his induction stove, but now he loves its ability to maintain even temperatures at both low and high heat. **KARSTEN MORAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

it takes to bake a cake.

“For children who live in a home with a gas stove, the increased risk of asthma is on par with living in a home with a smoker,” she said.

So just as someone might want to quit smoking, there’s a strong case to be made for kicking the natural gas habit.

Happily, there is induction, which uses electromagnets to efficiently heat cookware without the inherent pollution of fossil fuels like natural gas.

While induction stoves may have far less lizard-brain appeal than gas, the latest models gain in unmatched power, precision and responsiveness. And, as anyone who routinely bubbles oatmeal onto the metal hob of a gas stove will be thrilled to read, cleaning the smooth cooktop of an induction range is an absolute breeze.

Although induction technology has been around for decades and is established in Europe, it has yet to catch on extensively here. According to Consumer Reports, induction cooktops and ranges are installed in only under 5% of homes in the United States.

This figure is likely to increase as New York and other cities across the country enact legislation limiting gas hookups in new construction. In luxury buildings, induction is not only seen as more efficient

and functional than regular electric stoves — the kind with the red-hot circles that always smell like scorched milk — but it’s perceived as more upscale as well.

But induction stoves are expensive. Starting around \$1,000, they’re twice the price of a basic gas range. Still, industry experts agree that, as demand increases, prices will fall.

Rachelle Boucher, owner of Kitchens to Life, a California consulting company that helps cooks electrify their kitchens, said that even as prices for induction stoves begin to come down, she’s seeing quality improve by leaps and bounds.

The newest wave of products, she said, incorporate nuanced technology that allows you to set and maintain precise temperatures — for example, the exact 180 degrees you’d need for a satiny crème anglaise without risk of curdling. Some cooktops will even let you move pans around different heat zones, mimicking a French top.

“The more people learn about the environmental costs of gas, the more they’re turning to induction,” Boucher said. “It’s the future; there’s no going back.”

Before writing this article, I spent time testing induction in my house, various friends’ kitchens and several showroom kitchens.

At home, I pulled the knobs off my gas stove and

hid them in a drawer to discourage cheating. Then, I covered the hobs with metal sheet pans, arranged two portable induction burners on top of the pans, and vowed to give up the gas for at least two weeks.

The first order of business was figuring out which pieces of cookware were compatible with induction, then rearranging them so the viable ones were in easy reach. Only magnetic pans like cast-iron and stainless steel will work, which sidelined my beloved copper pans.

Then I got to cooking. I boiled huge pots of pasta water in minutes on the highest setting and marveled at the speed. Then I slowly sautéed skillet of slivered garlic on low heat, never scorching them, no matter how long I got lost in my phone. With one burner on high and the other on low, I could make my favorite midnight pasta faster and more easily than on my gas stove.

Using a cast-iron pan and the highest setting, I achieved gorgeously rare lamb chops that were more evenly bronzed and crisp-edged than usual. Wiping up their splatter was the work of 20 seconds with a vinegar-soaked cloth, rather than the quarter-hour it would take to pull off the greasy hobs and scrub them in the sink.

In the mornings, my low-heat scrambled eggs

Silky scrambled eggs with pancetta, pepper and Pecorino

Keeping the heat low and steady is the key to soft scrambled eggs. Pancetta adds a brawny bite, but you can leave it out to make the dish vegetarian. Do add lots of freshly ground black pepper, though: It’s what gives the custardy eggs a spicy snap.

- Makes:** 2 servings **Total time:** 15 minutes
2 to 3 ounces pancetta, diced
1 to 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
6 eggs
Pinch of salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Grated Pecorino Romano, Parmesan or other hard grating cheese
- 1. Using a nonstick** or well-seasoned cast-iron pan, heat the pancetta over medium. Let cook, shaking the pan, until the fat renders out and the pancetta browns all over, 3 to 10 minutes, depending on how large the cubes are.
- 2. If the pan looks oily**, pour (or spoon) off any excess grease. Add butter to the pan and let melt. Reduce heat to low.
- 3. Beat** the eggs and salt in a medium bowl until well mixed but not frothy. Pour into the skillet with the pancetta and, using a heatproof spatula or wooden spoon, scramble the eggs until they are just set, 2 to 4 minutes. Take care that the eggs don’t brown, lowering the heat further if necessary.
- 4. Divide** eggs onto two plates and shower pepper generously over the top. Sprinkle with cheese and serve at once.



Scrambling eggs over the low heat of an induction burner keeps them custardy and soft. **SANG AN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Midnight pasta with anchovies, garlic and tomato

Tomato paste gives this speedy midnight pasta, studded with anchovy and garlic, its color and umami. If you’re not an anchovy fan, you can substitute a few tablespoons of chopped capers or olives. Be generous when adding the pasta sauce to the pan. The mixture should look soupy at first, but the sauce will thicken up as you toss.

- Makes:** 2 servings **Total time:** 25 minutes
Salt, as needed
½ pound bucatini, spaghetti or linguine
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
4 to 8 oil-packed anchovy fillets, chopped (optional)
Large pinch of red pepper flakes, plus more for serving
1 ½ tablespoons tomato paste
½ small lemon, zested
Handful of coarsely chopped parsley or basil leaves and tender stems, plus more for garnish
Grated Parmesan, for serving (optional)
- 1. Bring** a large pot of well-salted water to a boil over high heat. Add pasta and cook, according to package directions, until about 2 minutes shy of al dente so the pasta can finish cooking in the sauce. It should still have a slight crunch in the center. Reserve 1 cup of the pasta cooking water, then drain the pasta.
- 2. While the pasta is cooking**, in a large skillet, combine the oil, garlic, anchovies (if using), red pepper flakes and pinch of salt over low heat. Cook until garlic is opaque and a few of the slices are pale gold at the edges (don’t let the garlic turn brown), 2 to 5 minutes. Add tomato paste and cook until it darkens, about 1 minute longer.
- 3. Add** the drained pasta, lemon zest and ½ cup of the reserved pasta water to skillet. Stir until the pasta is al dente and well coated with sauce. Add more pasta water, if needed, until the sauce is glossy and the pasta cooked to taste.
- 4. Cut** zested lemon half in half (so you’ll have a quarter of a lemon) and squeeze some juice into pasta. Stir in herbs and taste, adding more lemon juice and salt, if needed. Cut remaining lemon into wedges and serve it alongside pasta, which should be garnished with more herbs and red pepper flakes, drizzle of oil and generous sprinkle of cheese, if you like.



A pot of pasta water boils very quickly on an induction range. **SANG AN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

were soft, custardy and never overcooked. And once I learned to set my oatmeal pots to simmer at exactly 209 degrees, they never came close to over-boiling.

One thing that I did notice was the difference in the two burners. Although both worked similarly (and extremely well) at the highest and lowest settings, there was a huge difference in the middle. The high-end burner — an expensive Breville Control Freak I borrowed for testing — could be set to an exact temperature, like the 209 degrees I need for simmering my oatmeal. With the less-expensive burner (a Duxtop), I could only set temperature intervals of 20

degrees. At 200 degrees, my oatmeal didn’t even bubble. At 220 degrees, it boiled over. Luckily, cleaning it up was a cinch.

In my testing of both burners and ranges, I found that the thing I valued most was precision — that is, having as many temperature options as possible. I also greatly preferred chunky knobs to a touch screen: They were more intuitive and easier to maneuver when my hands were dirty or wet.

As for the knobs from my gas stove, it’s been four weeks, and I still haven’t reattached them.

I think they’re in that drawer but, honestly, I haven’t checked. I haven’t missed the gas at all.

Grapes worth knowing better

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

A few weeks ago I opened a bottle that caught my attention. It was a soulful, graceful, strikingly pure red from the Aveyron region of southwestern France made by Nicolas Carmarans, a vigneron who makes natural wines from grapes that have long grown in the area.

This particular grape was fer servadou, a variety that to my knowledge I had never tried.

As delightful as I found the wine, my encounter with an intriguing new grape was even more joyful. It was a reminder that no matter how well-versed one might be in the intricacies of producers, regions and issues, wine always has more to reveal.

In that spirit, I'd like to suggest some grapes that are little-known in the United States but are worth getting to know better. You might not find all of these immediately, but keep your eyes open and try a few. You may be pleasantly surprised.

Wine, like food, is a hearty invitation to explore. It could simply be a new producer or an unknown region. Or it might be a completely unfamiliar grape, so all of these elements will be new.

Sometimes, what seems little-known or obscure becomes well loved. In 2010, I named a dozen grapes that I thought were worth seeking out.

Some of those varieties, like assyrtiko, frappato, mencia and trousseau, have been embraced, though not exactly at a chardonnay level.

It's important to note that while I have used terms like "obscure" and "little-known," I really mean in American and English-speaking wine cultures. All of these grapes

are known and loved by those who farm the vines and make the wine. The rest of us are just catching up.

Here are the grapes, in alphabetical order.

Altesse: The Savoie region of France and its neighbors have quite a few little-known grapes that make beautiful wines. Mondeuse, persan and gringet are three. But in my exploration of Savoie whites last year, I fell in love with wines made with altesse. They are fragrant and floral, and rich yet refreshing because of the variety's bracing acidity. Wines labeled Roussette de Savoie will be 100% altesse. Those from other Savoie appellations like Apremont will be mostly jacquère with altesse sometimes blended in, a combination that can also be lovely.

Areni: Armenia and Georgia sit next to each other on a wide isthmus between the Caspian and Black seas. This area is the Caucasus, thought by many to be one of the points where wine originated. The two countries have dozens of grapes worth getting to know better, but I want to highlight areni from Armenia, a red grape that I have had only a few times, but each time it was startlingly good — lightly tannic yet fresh with stony flavors of red fruits and great finesse. I don't have a ready source for Armenian wines, I seem to find them by chance. But I'm looking forward to the next encounter.

Baga: This is the leading red grape of the Bairrada region of Portugal. It long had a reputation for making tough, tannic wines, and you can still find examples. These bottles may need years of aging for the tannins to relax. But many



JASON RAISH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

growers have recently found that by macerating the juice and the skins of the grapes for shorter periods, they can make fresher, more elegant wines that are vibrant and lively. Filipa Pato & William Wouters make excellent бага wines, as do Sidónio de Sousa, Casa de Saima and Dirk Niepoort.

Bobal: Here is a perfect example of a grape not getting a chance to show its stuff. For centuries it's been one of the leading grapes of southeastern Spain, though it went ordinarily into nondescript bulk wines. But recently, producers have worked to demonstrate the potential of bobal when farmed conscientiously in the right soils. I've found two in particular, Ponce and Mustiguillo, who have shown that bobal can be complex, nuanced, transparent and energetic in the right hands. I have also had an excellent natural bobal from Partida Creus in Catalonia.

Frontenac: Hybrid grapes rarely get any respect. Yet here's a grape that's a blend of Vitis vinifera, the species that accounts for almost all the best-loved European wine grapes, Vitis labrusca, a species that is native to America, and at least six additional species. Nobody has done more persuasive work on hybrids than Deirdre Heekin and Caleb Barber of La Garagista in Vermont, whose wines are luminous examples of their potential. One of my favorite Garagista wines, Loups-Garoux, is made entirely of Frontenac. I recently opened a 2017 that was fresh and alive, with wild, exotic fruit flavors and stony undertones.

Mandilaria: Greece offers many red grapes that are little known outside their growing regions. One exception is xinomavro, which is the Greek red most likely to make long-lived, complex wines. But others are well worth further attention, like

limniona, mavrotragano and mavrodaphne. But I want to mention mandilaria here, which has often been dismissed, even in Greece, as all dark color and tannins with little character. But what if it were made differently? Last years I drank Great Mother red from Stilianou on Crete, which, like the Bairrada producers and бага, treats mandilaria with the lightest of hands. The result was a fascinating pale red, or dark rosé, that was earthy and lightly fruity.

Pecorino: This is one of Italy's great success stories. According to Ian D'Agata's excellent "Native Wine Grapes of Italy," this white grape, which had largely disappeared in the mid-20th century, was resurrected by a couple of producers who were looking for better alternatives among indigenous grapes to the more popular but mediocre varieties that had been planted for their productivity. Now grown

primarily in the Marche and Abruzzo, pecorino is sharp, energetic and herbal, beautiful with dishes like linguine in clam sauce. Better producers include Antica Tenuta Pietramore, Tiberio and Cataldi Madonna from Abruzzo.

Trebbiano d'Abruzzese: If trebbiano d'Abruzzese sounds familiar, it's because "trebbiano" is a name applied to several different Italian white grapes. Most are common but mundane, but not trebbiano d'Abruzzese, a grape that is lively, richly textured, floral and saline. Producers in Abruzzo will tell you that trebbiano d'Abruzzese is in fact rare. Particularly confusing is that the wine, Trebbiano d'Abruzzo, can be made either with trebbiano Toscano, a lesser grape, or the genuine article, trebbiano d'Abruzzese. The key is to seek out reliable producers like Tiberio, Francesco Cirelli, Amorotti and, if you can afford them, Valentini and Emidio Pepe.

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Hartford Courant

Celebrate with beer and a meatless burger

By Jeanmarie Brownson
Tribune Content Agency

I am always game for a burger and a beer. This year, I'm serving a meatless burger with a selection of local craft beers to celebrate the unofficial National Beer Day on April 7.

This is the day, in 1933, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt's bill legalizing beer and wine for American citizens (after 13 years of Prohibition) went into effect.

Today, the variety of beers available is amazing. Same for burgers — everything from prime beef to cauliflower steaks to meatless patties.

I almost always prefer a roasted vegetable for a meatless burger meal, rather than highly processed, premade protein patties.

The trick to a successful meatless burger is to vary the textures so the bite satisfies. Thick slices of roasted eggplant topped with a sweet, salty, smoky glaze elevates flavor to the next level.

Add a slice of creamy fresh or melting cheese to give texture to the finished burger. Mayonnaise, laced with some of the glaze, tastes great spread over toasted, slightly sweet brioche or sesame burger buns. A slice of red ripe tomato adds juiciness, and crisp cucumber contributes a distinctive crunch.

The sweet and smoky glaze recipe tastes good on just about anything destined for the grill; I like to add it to grilled vegetables to give them tons of umami and personality.

Feel free to substitute bottled chili crisp (crushed chilies packed in oil) to save time — just know that things can get spicy!



The trick to a successful meatless burger is to vary the textures so the bite satisfies. JEANMARIE BROWNSON/TNS

Veggie cheese burgers with sweet and smoky glaze

Makes: 4 servings

Note: Look for eggplant that will yield round slices about the same size diameter as the burger buns. You can substitute 4 large portobello mushroom caps (12 ounces total) for the eggplant; reduce roasting time by about half.

⅓ cup sweet and smoky glaze (see recipe) OR store-bought spicy chili crisp
⅓ cup mayonnaise
3 to 4 tablespoons finely chopped sun-dried tomatoes

For the veggie burgers:

1 large eggplant, about 1 pound
Vegetable oil
4 to 8 ¼-inch-thick slices queso fresco or brick or havarti cheese
4 soft hamburger buns, such as whole-grain brioche or sesame, split, toasted
Thinly sliced seedless cucumbers or dill pickles
Thinly sliced red ripe tomatoes
Arugula sprigs or romaine leaves
1. Heat oven to 450 degrees. Arrange racks so you can cook in the top third of the oven.
2. Mix 1 tablespoon of the sweet and smoky glaze or chili crisp with the mayonnaise in a

small bowl. Stir in sun-dried tomatoes.

3. Cut eggplant into rounds about 1- to 1 ¼-inch thick; you need 4 round slices (reserve any remaining eggplant for other use). Place slices on an oiled baking sheet. Brush or spray both sides generously with oil.

4. Roast eggplant, turning slices over once, until golden brown and tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Brush one side of eggplant with glaze or chili crisp. Cook 2 to 3 minutes more; top with cheese slices and more glaze. Bake just long enough to soften cheese, 1 to 2 minutes.

5. Spread the tomato mayonnaise over the bottoms and tops of the toasted buns. Layer 1

eggplant slice over the bottom buns. Top with cucumber or dill pickle slices, tomato and arugula sprigs. Place bun on top and serve.

Sweet and smoky glaze

Mix 3 tablespoons olive oil, 2 tablespoons ketchup, 1 tablespoon each soy sauce, agave syrup and red wine vinegar, and 2 cloves crushed garlic in a small dish. Stir in 1 teaspoon smoked paprika, ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes and salt. Add freshly ground black pepper to taste. Makes about ½ cup. Refrigerate covered up to one week.

Cupcakes that are positively dreamy

By Sheela Prakash
TheKitchn.com

Black bottom cupcakes fall somewhere between chocolate cupcakes and cream cheese brownies. These are cupcakes that eschew frosting. Instead, the tender-crumbed chocolate cake reveals a delicious chocolate chip-studded cream cheese filling when broken apart. They're a moist, fudgy and luxuriously rich treat.

The fluffy chocolate cake is similar to Devil's food cake and relies on cocoa powder for its chocolate flavor. The cream cheese filling is a simple mix of softened cream cheese, granulated sugar, egg and vanilla extract. To gild the lily, mini chocolate



JOE LINGEMAN/THEKITCHN.COM

chips are folded into the filling.

Mini chocolate chips are the best choice for the cream cheese filling because they're light enough to stay suspended in the filling; regular chocolate chips would sink. If you have a bag of regular chips, just use the same amount and give them a rough chop before folding them into the filling.

Because black bottom cupcakes have a cream cheese filling, it's best to refrigerate them. Pack leftover cupcakes in an airtight container and store them in the fridge for up to three days. While you can enjoy them cold, straight from the fridge, I like to leave them out on the counter for 20 minutes or so to come to room temperature before eating.

Black bottom cupcakes

Makes: 12 servings

8 ounces cream cheese
2 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
¾ plus ⅓ cup granulated sugar, divided
2 large eggs, divided
¾ teaspoon kosher salt, divided
½ cup mini semisweet chocolate chips
½ cup water
¾ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup unsweetened natural cocoa powder (not Dutch-process)
¾ teaspoon baking powder
¾ teaspoon baking soda
½ cup whole or 2⅔ milk
¼ cup canola or vegetable oil
2 teaspoons apple cider or distilled white vinegar
1. Place 8 ounces cream cheese in bowl of a stand mixer (or large bowl if using an electric hand mixer). Let sit at room temperature until softened, about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, arrange a rack in middle of oven and heat to 350 degrees. Line standard 12-well muffin pan with paper liners.
2. Add 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract to cream cheese. Beat with the paddle attachment on medium speed until fluffy, about 1 minute. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and the beater with a rubber spatula. Add ⅓ cup of the granulated sugar, 1 of the large eggs and

¼ teaspoon kosher salt. Beat on low speed until combined and mostly smooth (a few lumps are okay), about 1 minute more. Add ½ cup mini chocolate chips and beat on low speed until just combined.
3. Bring ½ cup water to a simmer in a small saucepan over medium heat. As soon as the water comes to a simmer, turn the heat off. (Alternatively, use an electric or stovetop tea kettle and bring it to a boil.)
4. Place ¾ cup all-purpose flour, the remaining ¾ cup granulated sugar, ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder, ¾ teaspoon baking powder, ¾ teaspoon baking soda and the remaining ½ teaspoon kosher salt in a medium bowl. Whisk to combine.
5. Add the remaining 1 large egg, ½ cup milk, ¼ cup canola or vegetable oil, 2 teaspoons apple cider or white vinegar, and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. Whisk to combine. Pour in the hot water and whisk to combine. The batter will be quite thin.
6. Divide the batter evenly between the wells in the pan, filling each no more than ¾ full. Dollop each with 2 tablespoons of the cream cheese mixture, dividing it evenly among the cupcakes.
7. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cupcakes comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Let the cupcakes cool in the pan for about 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

When you taste this pasta, you'll know spring has sprung

By Diane Rossen Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

I get tired of making pasta with red sauce or creamy sauces. That's why I developed this quick recipe, with a plethora of fresh herbs and just-harvested spring vegetables, to mark the arrival of the new season. No tomatoes, no cream here. Simply lots of sweet, crunchy sugar snap peas, slender asparagus, bright green peas and penne pasta. The sauce is emerald green in color, herbaceous and slightly spicy with the crushed red pepper flakes. The lemon zest adds a citrus note.

I served this to my family the other night, and they all expressed immense satisfaction with the sweet, salty, spicy flavors of this keeper of a pasta dish. You'll notice that you reserve some pasta water to add to the pasta and vegetables to develop just the right sauce consistency.



You can add shredded chicken or tuna to this pasta dish to pack in the protein. DIANE ROSSEN WORTHINGTON/TNS

Penne pasta with spring green vegetables

Makes: 4 to 6 servings

For the sauce:
3 cloves garlic, ends removed
2 tablespoons tarragon leaves
½ cup basil leaves
1 cup fresh parsley leaves
¼ cup fresh dill sprigs
2 green onions, cleaned, (white and light green parts), sliced
1 tablespoon anchovy paste
1 tablespoon capers, drained
6 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Crushed red pepper flakes
½ cup olive oil
For the pasta and vegetables:
Water
Salt
20 thin asparagus, cleaned, trimmed, and cut into 2-inch pieces
½-pound sugar snap peas, cleaned
1 cup fresh or frozen and defrosted peas
1 pound penne

To serve:
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, plus extra for serving
Zest of 1 lemon
Chopped fresh herbs, for garnish
1. In a food processor while motor is running mince the garlic. Add all other sauce ingredients except the oil. Add the oil slowly until it becomes a sauce. Set aside.
2. Heat a large pot of water with salt to a boil. Add the asparagus and sugar snap peas and cook for 2 minutes or until tender. Add the peas and cook another minute or until just done. Remove all vegetables with a slotted spoon to serving bowl.
3. Cook the pasta in the boiling water for about 9 minutes or until al dente. Reserve 1 cup water. Drain pasta and add to serving bowl. Add enough of the green sauce to the pasta and vegetables and mix to combine with a large spoon. Add a bit of pasta water to make a sauce-like consistency. Sprinkle over the Parmesan cheese and lemon zest and mix to combine.
4. Divide into shallow bowls, garnish with chopped herbs, if desired, and serve immediately. Serve more cheese on the side.